

EAST AFR. PROT
23830

C O
23830
REC'D
REC'D 24 MAY 15

For
Preserved
1915
5 April
unpreserved Paper

German East Africa

forwards War Diary for period
March 27th - April 9th

see Bethany
see Read W. J. Fisher

see also 23712

We have had most of
this before in one
form or another

P. H. G.?

26515 Equi 25/7/15

W. J. H.
25/7/15

Not a German
record.

Apr 25. 5. 15

26.5.16

W. Bonar Law
should see this
and 23712

I think C.O. did
quite as well as I

1.0.15.0. 26.5.16

26.5.15

23712

209

subsequent Paper

2097

W. J. H. 26.5.16

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

15th April 1915.

SECRET.

Sir,

With reference to my Secret despatch of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to forward for your information copy of the G.O.C.'s War Diary from 27th March to 9th April.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

A. Laway Beyard.

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

SECRET

ENCLOSURE

In Dispatch *Secret* of 15 April 1915

(COPY).

SECRET.

No. 215-0/68.

Command Headquarters, F.E.A. & U.,

Nairobi, 5th April 1915.

266

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 Resumé
of my War Diary, from 27th March to 2nd April 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,

and Major General,

Commanding Troops in F.E.A. & Uganda

Copy forwarded for information to :-

The Chief Secretary to Government, Uganda.

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

His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Cape of Good

The Senior Naval Officer, Lake Victoria Nyanza. Hope.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY

27th March 1915. The island of Songo-Songo, just South of the Rufigi Delta, has been occupied by us.

In the Coast area there are signs of anxiety among our Indian troops regarding Constantinople

Naveta has been recently reinforced by the Germans.

In the Lake area our Karungu column has recrossed our frontier.

A German detachment is reported to have unsuccessfully attacked the Belgian Camp near Kivu, with the object, it is asserted, of capturing General Mallezen, our representative there.

In view of the fact that German raids against our people in the Umba district have been renewed, a letter has been sent to the German Commander-in-Chief informing him that naval reprisal against the Coast towns of German East Africa may be expected unless the practice is at once discontinued.

War Office approval to the withdrawal of our troops from Longido was received.

The Somali Scouts who have recently been disbanded are to be replaced at Fooseito by a body of white mounted scouts. The two companies Kashmir Rifles now holding that post are to be immediately withdrawn.

The Bhairpore Infantry are being sent to replace the Rampur Infantry at Gasi as there is reason to believe that the latter have formed an intention not to fight.

The Senior Naval Officer, Lake district, is

making

making personal enquiries on the spot to try and clear up the mystery of the disappearance of the German boat 'Mwanza.'

The enemy is showing distinct signs of activity in the direction of Loosito. All is quiet on the Coast and Lake frontiers.

29th March. The Voi-Maktau railway continues to make satisfactory progress.

An offer made by Lieut. Wedd, Rhodesian, to raise a force of fifty mounted men for service in British East Africa, definitely declined by the War Office.

Orders for the withdrawal of the Longido troops have been issued.

Intimation received through His Excellency the Governor, from the Colonial Office, and transmitted to General Malleson for the information of the Belgian authorities in the Congo, to the effect that the 6,000 rifles and 3,000,000 rounds of ammunition, which was to have been supplied by Portugal, would not now be forthcoming.

The most recent estimate of the German forces in the Moshi-Tanga area is as under :-

	<u>Europeans</u>	<u>Askaris</u>	<u>Machine Guns</u>
North of Tanga on the Coast	50	450	10
South of Tanga	150	500	11
Vicinity of Tanga-Rongwe	One coy. (150)		3

Out of the above total, some reinforcements (perhaps three companies and 9 machine guns) have been sent to Taveta.

(Contd).

	<u>Europeans</u>	<u>Askaris</u>	<u>Machine Guns</u>
Moshi	weekly held		
Arusha	30		3
Mgare Naitoli	800		15

The remaining 1,000 rifles, which are estimated to be at the disposal of the enemy in these two areas, will probably be found on the Usantara Railway.

A hostile patrol at Kacibos was unsuccessfully pursued on the 27th by two of our patrols from Loosito and Msima respectively.

The usual hostile patrol activity continues on the Kagera line.

30th March There is reason to believe that two squares of the 17th Cavalry have deserted to the enemy.

To relieve pressure in the vicinity of Loosito, a demonstration against Salaita Hill (on the Voi-Taveta line) was ordered by the G.O.C. area. Owing to a too protracted delay of the attacking party in withdrawal, an opportunity was given for the enemy to counter attack. In this they were successful, and we lost two machine guns and some 15 casualties. Details are not yet to hand.

31st March The General Officer Commanding returned from Mombasa, where he had been to confer with H.E. the Governor and the Naval Commander-in-Chief.

It is reported that on the 29th at 12 noon a patrol moved out from Loosito to attack a hostile force at Loosyan (half way to Msima). To-day it is reported from Idalal (near Loosyan) that Msima was

On the 30th being attacked at Iosocito.

Reinforcements from Mzima left for Iosocito on the night of the 30th/31st.

The German strength at Kilwa is reported to be 70 whites and 150 askaris.

From reliable information the German strength at Dar-es-Salaam is estimated at :-

1200 whites and blacks strongly entrenched at Upanga.
 600 askaris at Msaani
 200 rifles with 2 q.f. guns at bridge over Kurasini
 100 Europeans and 50 askaris at Mbaruku (9 miles up the railway).
 Of the above total, perhaps 600 rifles are

Europeans.

This shows a greater concentration in the neighbourhood of Dar-es-Salaam than formerly.

Maximum totals in this area are estimated at :-

600 Europeans
 2,000 askaris
 10 guns (of sorts)
 15 machine guns.

The 'Königsberg' is now near Watossa in the Rufiji Delta, where the water is fresh and drinkable.

In the Kilimanjaro area one of our patrol was attacked by five hostile companies from the vicinity of Taveta, resulting in our loss of two machine guns with reserve ammunition. (This is in confirmation of the report of 30th March 1915).

As a result of the above a revised estimate of the German forces in the Taveta area is 1,050 rifles.

A strong hostile patrol is reported in the vicinity

5.

vicinity of Losoyan on the 29th March.

All is reported quiet from the rest of the frontier.

1st April 1915

Some anxiety exists as to the safety of our post at Loosito, which persistent rumours state is being attacked by a strong hostile force.

Hexthausen has again crossed to the North bank of the Mara river.

The latest estimate of the German forces in German East Africa gives :-

2,500 whites

10,200 black troops (including levies)

47 guns (of sorts, mostly small calibre, the guns of the 'Königsberg' not being included).

65 machine guns.

The desertion of the two squadrons from the 17th Cavalry is confirmed; the case is considered an isolated one, and the remainder of the squadron is not affected.

A report received that a convoy escort of 10 Kapurthala Imperial Service Infantry were attacked near Kedengai by about 30 mounted Germans. We lost 2 killed and 4 wounded. Our Cavalry are pursuing.

2nd April

Report that the enemy have withdrawn from the attack on Loosito, that Lyall was retiring on the 1st on to Escibes, which is one march from Msima, and that Captain Money with Kashmir Rifles was now in a position to give Lyall all the assistance he might want. The Loosito post is to be finally abandoned, and the Mounted Infantry, who replace the Somali Scouts,

6.

Scouts, will be within supporting distance of Msima.

Heavy rain is now commencing, making the country roads almost impassable. The withdrawal from Longido, however, continues.

All is quiet on the Coast.

SECRET.

216-0/74.

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

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 3rd to the 9th April 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 the Troops, B.E.A. & Uganda.

Copy forwarded for information to :-

- The Chief Secretary to Government, Uganda.
- Brigadier General W. Mallison, C.I.E.
- His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Cape of Good
- The Senior Naval Officer, Lake Victoria Nyansa. Hope.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

3rd April 1915

A cable from War Office No. 3850 asking if proposals as to the withdrawal from Longido had been made after consultation with His Excellency the Governor. A reply was sent in the affirmative.

Reports are constantly being received of shortage of ammunition amongst the Germans; but it is improbable that such will be sufficient to have much effect on active operations.

There are indications that hostile raids may be expected against the Uganda Railway.

Our force at Loosito is now retiring on Esobes (about 12 miles E. of Loosito), the enemy having apparently retired from the vicinity of the former place.

There is good evidence to the effect that the demonstration against Salaita Hill was successful in its object in withdrawing German troops back to Taveta.

A surprise attack was made near Kidongai on one of our escorts of Imperial Service Troops, returning from convey duty, at 7 a.m. on the 1st instant. The escort (10 men) were all killed or captured but afterwards released.

It is rumoured that the majority of the Germans killed at Jasin were officers.

It is rumoured that Portugal is now leaning towards Germany.

A report has just been received that the whole of the Loosito troops have arrived safely at Msima.

4th April Telegram 4854 received from the War Office transferring General Wapshare to the Persian Gulf.

5th April It has been decided now that Loosito shall not be used in the future as a military post. The Mounted Infantry, lately organised, will therefore be based on Simba or Kiu.

The defence of the railway is now receiving increased attention, due to the possibility of raids by small hostile parties, the mobility of which must now be reckoned on, as there is water everywhere.

The hostile forces in the Bukoba district are now estimated at 40 Europeans, 2 regular companies blacks, and some 500 police and levies.

5th April In view of the prevalence of rumours regarding the conversion of the German Emperor and his Army to Islam, a telegram was sent to the Chief of the General Staff, India, asking if any steps were being taken to refute such rumours.

The withdrawal of the troops from Longido is being somewhat delayed by heavy rain.

7th April Colonel Kitchener returned from the Lake to-day.

A party sent out from Msima to recover stores and ammunition left in Loosito post found the Germans in possession; attacked at dawn, and recovered all the stores.

A Mr Witridge from Natal arrived with an offer of a regiment of Zulus and another of Swazis for service here; for various reasons the offer could not be considered.

8th April

A reply was received from India stating that no pronouncement had been made regarding the refutation of the rumour referred to (see April 6th), and that it was recommended that that and similar 'absurd' rumours should be treated personally and informally in unison with Commanders and Officers.'

Increased precautions are being taken for the protection of the Uganda Railway.

German activity appears to be on the increase towards Ngarana in Uganda.

The Belgians have reinforced Kigesi and Rutchura.

Some unrest exists among local Indians on the Coast, probably due to the feeling of unrest among Mahomedans generally at the present time.

Confirmation is again received of the report that the Germans lost heavily at Jasin.

The ill-treatment of natives and the burning of villages by the Germans towards the Umba is reported to have ceased.

A report has been received that the Masai in the vicinity of Loosito are friendly to the Germans and inimical to us, in this suggestion the Intelligence Officer, Voi, does not concur.

9th April

General Tighe arrived here last night; Lt. Col. Batten commands the Mombasa area temporarily.

In consequence of, and on the departure of, Major General Wapshafe, Brigadier General Malmeson will assume the command of the Mombasa area on his return from the Congo.

The withdrawal of the troops from Longido is progressing

4.
progressing satisfactorily.

Colonel Kitchener has been appointed Chief
Cable Censor, Mombasa.