

EAST AFR. PROT
39733

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For
Serialized

Serial

German East Africa

1915

14 July

For a 2 copy of G.O.C.'s War

List previous Paper.

Diary for period June 13th to July 3rd

For
39732 S

See on 40559

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For
40559 S

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EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

14th July 1915.

SECRET.

Sir,

For 39732 S

With reference to my Secret despatch of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to forward for your information copy of the General Officer Commanding's War Diary from 13th June to 3rd July 1915.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

A. Lawry, Brevet.

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

39733

142A

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

14th July 1915.

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With reference to my Secret despatch of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to forward for your information copy of the General Officer Commanding's War Diary from 13th June to 3rd July 1915.

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Your most obedient humble servant,

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ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

ENCLOSURE

In Dispatch Secret of 14 July 1915

(COPY).

No. 215-0/28.

SECRET.

Command Headquarters, B.E.A. & U. 193

Nairobi, 25th June 1915.

From

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

To

The Private Secretary to H.E. 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 June 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.
H.E. the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Cape of Good Hope.
The Senior Naval Officer, Victoria Nyansa.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

13th June 1915. The Naval Commander-in-Chief has guaranteed the safety of Zanzibar from hostile raids, and this will greatly simplify the question of security of the island.

The Maktou Column dispersed a small hostile patrol West of Mbuyuni Ridge, capturing one black soldier and all the baggage of the party.

All is reported quiet from Zanzibar, Mafia, and the Coast.

In the Vei area between Tembe and Mzima the telegraph wire was cut. A bomb was attached to the broken end with the idea of effecting an explosion when the end was raised.

No unauthorized person is now allowed to detrain at Tsava or Vei without a pass.

The attitude of the Uasin Gishu Plateau Beer settlers is that of sitting on the fence. They would probably give trouble in case of an emergency.

In the Eastern Lake Area the enemy's main forces are still at 'Mission'. The operations in this part appear to partake of the nature of a series of raids with the object of getting food and probably practicing young recruits. There are no real signs of an offensive movement.

Yen Steumer is at Kyaka with 30 whites and 400 askaris, 2 guns, and 2 machine guns.

At Bugene there were 9 whites and 350 men, who may be marching on Bukoba. However, it is fairly

certain

certain that no large movement has been made into Bukoba.

14th June. A raid was made on the new construction line at 11 miles from Vei. An attempt was made to blow up the rails but little damage was done.

The General Officer Commanding, Vei, writes that he now considers himself strong enough for all eventualities which may arise.

15th June. Lieut. Col. Andersen, R.E. has been appointed D.A.D.R.T.; he will regulate military traffic requirements and act as an intermediary between the Military and the Railway officials.

Prisoners report that no large guns have been seen at either Meshi or Taveta though there is much talk about them. There are 9 companies with some 19 machine guns in or about Taveta. No. 3 Company is armed with our .303 rifles.

The communications between Himo, Marangu, and Rembe have been greatly improved lately.

The total of the whole German detachment East of the Lake is now estimated at 90 Europeans, 1,000 askaris, some unarmed recruits, spearmen of no value, 3 guns, and 5 machine guns.

It is now certain that the tug 'Muansa' is beached and damaged at Muansa.

From Uganda it is reported that a company of recruits has recently arrived at Bukoba from Muansa. It is also reported that almost all the troops went recently from Bukoba to quell a local disturbance in

3.

Karagwe and have not yet returned.

Our 305.8 sent to the War Office to the effect that during the current month patrol activity had been on the increase but our patrols more than hold their own. Several attempts have been made on the railway but only 2 were partially successful.

All our white troops have been withdrawn from Karungu owing to sickness.

The Turkhana Expedition has been brought to a successful conclusion.

16th June. There is the usual patrol activity at Maktau and Mzima.

The Loyal North Lancs. have been so weakened by sickness that their effective strength at present is 260 rifles out of some 800 men.

17th June. It seems likely that the enemy may attack Karungu; the advisability of giving this unhealthy place up and holding Kisii instead is being considered.

It is estimated that in the vicinity of Meshi and Taveta there are some 3,520 rifles.

In the Eastern Lake Area a hostile party of unknown strength has left Maganana for Busigwe.

The hostile forces within 90 miles of Bukoba are estimated by Intelligence, Uganda, at 60 Europeans, 475 regular blacks, 1,070 levies, 5 guns, and 7 machine guns.

It is estimated that there are now 24 Regular Companies and 3 Reserve Companies, with 1 Company

Police.

4.

Police, in G.E.A. (the strength of the first 24 Companies is about 300, and of the remainder 150 to 200, and most companies have 10 per cent. white, with 2 machine guns.)

The latest estimate of the enemy's forces in G.E.A. is :-

2,000 Europeans
7,100 Regular Blacks
4,000 Levies and Recruits
61 Guns
62 Machine Guns

18th June. Objections were raised by the Civil Government to the arming of some of our Masai. These have now been withdrawn.

There are further indications of hostile activity in the Eastern Lake Area, and an attack on Karungu is considered within the bounds of possibility though not very likely. Our troops now occupying Karungu and the Nyesuku line are of little use either to prevent raiding or for any offensive purpose. The district also is unhealthy, and it has been decided to withdraw them all to Kisii at an early date.

19th June. The news from the Eastern Lake Area is more reassuring to-day, it is considered that the situation there requires no present modifications.

A section of the Masai in the Naivasha area are out to give a certain amount of trouble, due to dislike of their present location.

A double company of the 2nd Kashmir Rifles has been sent to the district to deal with the situation.

A hostile raiding party attacked the railway covering

covering party at 2 miles W. of Maktau but were driven off. One of our native guides was killed. The enemy are reported to have had at least 3 casualties.

It is reported that strict orders have been given by the Germans forbidding their askaris to fire on the 'white' or 'red cross' flags or to kill the wounded.

In the Eastern Lake Area the enemy is now reported to be making his headquarters at Susuni.

It is reported that a Column reached Bukoba from Tabera about the beginning of June; these are probably recruits.

The state of discipline and health of the men is said to be unsatisfactory.

ENCLOSURE

In Despatch No. 1000 of 11th July 1915

COPT.

C. 215-0/133.

SECRET.

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

Nairobi, 3rd July 1915.

199

From

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

To

The Private Secretary to H.E. 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 the 26th June 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.
H.E. The Naval Commander-in-Chief, Cape of Good Hope.
The Senior Naval Officer, Victoria Nyansa.

20th June 1915. German patrol activity is again commencing on the Coast.

The flotilla engaged in the operations on the Lake left Kisumu at 1 p.m. to-day.

The enemy is raiding on the Karungu border but has made no serious advance.

Salakta Hill is reported to have been heavily reinforced.

21st June 1915. From reports received it looks as if the enemy feared an attack at Sherati and Musoma.

It has now been definitely decided that our troops shall be withdrawn from Karungu and be in future based on Kisii.

Railhead is expected to reach Maktau on the 25th. 30 K.A.R. Mounted Infantry are being sent to Maktau to operate in that area.

It is now evident that the enemy's activities towards Karungu were made with the object of collecting supplies for his troops.

All quiet except in the Eastern Lake area where continued patrol activity is evident.

It is reported from Nyassaland that a force of 200 Europeans and 400 fresh native troops have arrived at Neu Langenburg.

22nd June 1915. Raiding in the Uмба, combined with ill-treatment of natives, seems to have recommenced.

The formation of Hairebi, Mombasa, and Zanzibar Defence Forces is proceeding in a satisfactory manner. These forces may be useful for active operations later.

23rd June.

The question of asking the Navy to bombard a German coast town as reprisal for ill-treatment of our native non-combatants is being seriously considered.

A communication from the Officer Commanding Belgian Troops, in the Congo indicates that the Belgian authorities there are not very ambitious. M. Tombeur considers that operations should commence with the conquest and consolidation of Ruanda. Considering that the available Belgian Forces consist of some 17,000 men, Ujiji and the Central German East African Railway would be a more suitable objective.

The enemy are reported to have established a camp at Mbuyuni and to have reconnoitred Maktau to-day.

This is probably a diversion to try and distract us from Bukoba, our objective on the Lake.

A hostile patrol fired into one of our picquets at Msaambweni; our casualties are one man missing.

There are indications that a source of supply for German East Africa is through XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Portuguese territory.

Some 1,000 head of cattle were looted from the Ogwaris district on the 17th.

It is reported that a strong hostile force is being established at Nyesuko.

It is also reported that the enemy's forces on the Kagera line have been reduced.

Large German forces are said to be arriving in Ruanda at the end of this month.

24th June. Captain Jesser-Coope, of the 2nd Rhodesian Rifles, is going on sick leave to South Africa and Rhodesia. As he is well known in both countries, he has been asked to take a letter with him giving a general review of the situation. He is also authorised to discuss the question of general assistance which might be given us by South Africa.

News was received at 6.30 p.m. from General Stewart that the operations against Bukoba had been completely successful; fort, wireless, and Government buildings destroyed; many rifles and much ammunition, also one field gun and valuable documents captured.

Considerable political effect among the natives in the Bukoba district is also anticipated.

In the Msambweni affair, reported yesterday, we lost 1 killed, 2 wounded, and 1 captured by the enemy.

On the morning of 23rd a hostile force estimated at 3 companies advanced to within two miles of Maktau but retired on being engaged by our piquet. They had 3 casualties, and we had 1 K.A.R. wounded.

It is reported that there is much enteric among the German troops at Moshi.

From information, considered reliable, it appears that the Germans have considerably reinforced Salaita Hill at the expense of neighbouring posts.

The Taveta defences are now said to be completed.

It is also reported that the new line of communication from Taveta to Moshi is a motor road and not a railway.

4.

The Wakamoa, near Taveta, are reported to be suffering from shortness of food.

Another abortive attack has been made on mile 53 of the Magadi Railway.

In the Eastern Lake area the Germans have declared the Gori River to be the boundary between British and German East Africa. The natives South of the River have been informed by them that they can return to their 'shambas' provided they give up their cattle.

25 June. Owing to certain leakage of information regarding movements of troops by rail, arrangements to secure comparative secrecy have been completed with the Railway authorities.

A letter was sent to the Chief of the General Staff, Simla, outlining what our probable requirements would be for the future in the event of a general advance being sanctioned.

A communication was sent to the Officer Commanding the Belgian Forces in the Congo indicating in what manner the G.O.C. in British East Africa considered that co-operation might be most usefully obtained between the Belgian and British forces. This followed the suggestion previously made in April last.

A German raid is threatened against the Masai in the districts of Lailal and Maselik; steps have been taken to counteract it.

In the Eastern Lake area the natives spread a report that a large British force was advancing on Nyesuko; this resulted in a hurried withdrawal of the

5.

the enemy to Susuni.

In the fight at Bukoba our casualties were white 9 killed and 22 wounded, K.A.R. 3 wounded.

The enemy's known casualties were 16 killed and 29 wounded.

42 captured Belgian askaris are reported to be now serving with the German forces. Four deserted to us a short time ago.

26th June. A telegram was received from India saying that four 5.4" howitzers could be supplied from that country, but without personnel for crews.

ENCLOSURE

In Dispatch No. 215 of 1st July 1915.

(COPY).

No. 215-0/135.

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

Nairobi,

6th July 1915.

205

SECRET.

From

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

To

The Private Secretary to H.E. 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 27th June to the 3rd July
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, E.E.A. & U.

Copy forwarded for information to:-

The Chief Secretary to Government, Uganda.
H.E. the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Cape of Good Hope.
The Senior Naval Officer, Victoria Nyansa.

27th June 1915.

All quiet generally.

It is becoming increasingly evident that enemy's sources of information are now almost completely cut off. It appears that he has now to depend almost entirely on his patrolling.

28th June.

A communication was sent to the Officer Commanding German Forces, in German East Africa, pointing out that the destruction of part of Bukoba was carried out as retaliation for the wanton ill-treatment of non-combatant natives in our territory. This was done in accordance with the warning previously issued on the subject. A further warning was given that in the event of further ill-treatment further reprisals might be expected. Thanks were conveyed to the Officer Commanding the German Troops for the orders issued by him on the subject of respecting red cross flag and mutilation of wounded. At the same time it was pointed out that the body of one of our whites, killed near Kivakuni, was found with both feet cut off.

The enemy invariably use soft nose bullets, and we have ceased to remonstrate at this as it is useless to do so.

The enemy are showing some activity on the Coast but a serious advance is not feared.

29th June.

Enemy are again raiding on the East of the Lake near Karungu. Our letter to Von Forbeck may have some effect in checking this useless barbarity.

Reports regarding hostile activity in the Coast

area have been received but they cannot be treated as serious. Its object, if it does exist, is probably to distract attention from elsewhere.

A hostile patrol 'sniped' Maktau on the 27th but fled on the approach of our men.

30th June. Copies of General Tigue's and General Stewart's despatches are appended at the end of this Resume.

The railhead has now reached Maktau and preparations are being completed to push it further.

The Mairabi, Mombasa, and Zanzibar Defence Forces are now 'in being'.

The Bukoba success appears to have inaugurated a more friendly feeling towards I.E.F. 'B' in British East Africa, and the morale of our troops has certainly improved.

In the Coast area the natives are apprehensive of a German advance.

In the Eastern Lake area the enemy burned Ogwaris on the 27th instant. Native refugees are in a state of starvation.

There is a threat that the enemy may clear the whole country as far as the Kujia River unless they are checked.

It is possible that the formation and provisioning of concentration camps may soon become necessary in this district.

In Uganda the Germans are not allowing any native to enter Bukoba. This is probably an effort to keep their defeat a secret.

The Senje country now appears to be clear of the enemy.

RESULTS OF WAR DIARY

30th June 1915

It is becoming increasingly evident that the enemy's intention is to advance to Bukoba and to cut off our communications. It appears that the enemy is depending mainly on his superiority in numbers.

30th June

A communication was sent to the Officer Commanding the German forces, in German East Africa, pointing out that the destruction of part of Bukoba was carried out as retaliation for the wanton ill-treatment of non-combatant natives in our territory. This was done in accordance with the warning previously issued on the subject. A further warning was given that in the event of further ill-treatment further reprisals might be expected. Thanks were conveyed to the Officer Commanding the German Troops for the orders issued by him on the subject of releasing red cross flags and mutilation of wounded. At the same time it was pointed out that the body of one of our officers, killed near Kivuhini, was found with both feet cut off.

The enemy evidently has not heard of our progress to date and we have ceased to communicate at this time. The enemy are showing some activity on the Coast but a serious advance is not feared.

30th June

Reports regarding hostile activity in the Coast are again raising on the East of the Lake near Mairabi. Our letter to Gen Tordoff has had some effect in checking this restless activity.

3.

In the Eastern Lake area the enemy, after having destroyed all crops and kraals in the Utendi district, have evacuated it, and are reported to be concentrating at Sherari Hill.

The enemy are reported to have suffered heavy losses at Kimwa on the 22nd instant.

It is confirmed that the enemy has heavily reinforced Neu Langenburg, on the Nyasaland Border, but all is quiet in the neighbourhood of Marengo.

1st July.

Reliable reports from various sources confirm the statement that the Germans have salvaged arms and ammunition from the 'cellier' which was sunk by the Navy in Mansa Bay.

This was pointed out to the Admiral, who replied that perhaps guns and rifles might be salvaged but he thought not ammunition. He pointed out that there was an Admiralty injunction against entering Mansa Bay for fear of mines.

He said he would however again address the Admiralty on the subject.

Captain Jesser-Coope has been authorised to act as accredited agent in the matter of recruiting motor mechanics, recruits for the Supply and Transport Corps, and for Medical Services.

He is also authorised to report on the possibility of obtaining reinforcements for the 2nd Rhodesian Rifles.

A successful patrol action is reported from Maktau in which a German officer was captured.

2nd July.

The Masai trouble in the neighbourhood of

Gilgil

4.

Gilgil being settled for the time being, the Double Company of the 2nd Kashmiris has returned to Nairobi.

It is reported from Port Amelia in Portuguese East Africa that the enemy is importing large quantities of feedstuff and ammunition from Portuguese territory. This information has been transmitted to the Amiral.

It is reported that, as soon as the guns and ammunition, which are now supposed to have been salvaged, have been distributed, a German attack will be made on Nairobi from Kilimanjaro. A truly fantastic rumour when the difficulties of such a movement are given full consideration.

All is now reported quiet from the Coast area.

The enemy was reported to be in force at Ziwani swamp yesterday; this, if true, is probably purely a defensive measure.

A member of the American Mission at Kijabe has been arrested on suspicion of attempting to signal with the enemy at Suswa Hill.

The situation is unchanged in the Eastern Lake area.

The 'Mwansa' is reported to be now repaired and afloat but has not yet been reported as seaworthy.

An unofficial report has been received in Uganda that fighting is in progress at Kissenjic and Uvira.

3rd July.

All is reported quiet.

The Loyal North Lancs. leave for ~~the~~ Maktou this evening. Cole's Scouts (Loyal North Lancs. Mounted Infantry)

5.

Infantry) also go there on the 6th. Maktau and Kajindo are the two healthiest posts in British East Africa, and the white troops will be divided between them, except for a few at Kisii. When the 25th Fusiliers are fit to take their place in the firing line they will also be moved to the Voi-Maktau line.

(COPY).

No. 313-S.

SECRET

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

30th June 1915.

From

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

To

The Secretary,
War Office,
London.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward a report by Brigadier General J. M. Stewart, C.B., A.D.C., on the recent operations against Bukoba. A map is attached.

For some time past the enemy's activity on the Southern border of Uganda had become more and more marked; patrols, acting with great boldness, crossed the Kagera River and raided Northwards; and a considerable number of cattle had, at various times, been driven off from Rushenyi.

In the Eastern Lake area raiding parties had also shown much activity and had not only looted cattle but burnt native huts and grain stores and wantonly ill-treated the inhabitants on our side of the border.

With a frontier of over 1,000 miles it is impossible to guard all points threatened by raids; at the same time our natives must be protected as far as practicable, directly or indirectly.

2.

2. I had therefore to decide on an objective for offensive operations, an attack on which would relieve pressure on the long and thinly-held line of the Kagera, and at the same time show the enemy that we could, in a perfectly legitimate way, retaliate for their ill-treatment of harmless and unarmed natives.

The fortified town of Bukoba, situated on the Western shore of Lake Victoria, some 30 miles South of our outposts on the Kagera River, appeared to fulfil the above conditions. It was used as a base for supplying the German troops on the Uganda border, and its powerful wireless station was an important link in their communications with Tabora.

3. The enemy had, within three days' march of Bukoba, some 1,500 rifles, with 4 guns and several machine guns.

The utmost secrecy was therefore observed, and false information spread by us, and that this had the desired effect was proved by the fact that the landing at Bukoba took the enemy completely by surprise, and not more than 400 rifles in all opposed us.

I sent a sufficient force to enable the operations to be brought to a speedy conclusion, whatever the strength of the enemy; and, to compensate for the absence of so considerable a proportion of my reliable troops, special measures were taken to temporarily strengthen the important Vei and Tsave lines at the expense of less vulnerable areas.

4.

3.

4. The operations have been fully described by General Stewart. A few additional points may, however, be of interest.

(i) A Mahomedan standard (Green, with Turkish Crescent) was found in the house of the Commandant of the Bukoba district, Major Von Stuemer. This appeared to be of European manufacture, and such standards have probably been issued broadcast in German East Africa to incite the Mahomedan element against us.

(ii) The confidence shown by the natives in us was very marked. Our troops, in their advance on Bukoba, had frequently to go through native plantations and holdings. The inhabitants showed no fear whatever, and did not even leave the neighbourhood of their huts.

(iii) The hostility shown by the same people to the Germans. No sooner had our troops re-embarked than Bukoba was overrun by natives, looting and pillaging everywhere. It was unfortunate that the Germans left no official in Bukoba to whom the untouched private buildings could have been handed over.

(iv) The general effect of the destruction of Bukoba on the native mind will probably be considerable; and the tribes from which the German native levies are drawn in this area will probably be an uncertain factor for the Germans in future.

5. With our preponderance of strength and armament, the fighting was naturally not severe; but the operations

4. The operations have been fully described by General Stewart. A few additional points may, however, be of interest. (i) The Commandant of the Bukoba district, Major von Gemmert, this appeared to be of European manufacture, and such standards have probably been issued to the German elements against us. (ii) The confidence shown by the natives in us was very limited. Our troops, in their advance on Bukoba, had previously been through native plantations and holdings. The inhabitants showed no fear whatever, and did not even leave the neighbourhood of their huts. (iii) The hostility shown by the same people to the Germans. No sooner had our troops re-embarked than Bukoba was overrun by natives, looting and pillaging everywhere. It was unfortunate that the Germans felt no obligation in respect to whom the unattached private buildings could have been handed over. (iv) The general effect of the destruction of Bukoba on the native mind will probably be considerable, and the tribes from which the German native levies are drawn in this area will probably be uncertain as to the future of the Germans in future. With our preponderance of strength and armament the fighting was naturally not severe, but the operations

operations were entirely successful, and the morale of our troops has been raised.

The conduct of the operations were entrusted to Brigadier General J. M. Stewart, C.B., A.D.C., who carried them out with skill and energy to my complete satisfaction.

I wish to endorse his comments on the Railway and Naval arrangements, and on the officers he brings to notice, especially Commander G. S. Thornley, Royal Navy.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) M. J. TIGHE, Major General,

Commanding Troops in B.E.A. & U.
(I.E.F. 'B'.)

Copy forwarded for information to the Chief of the General Staff, Army Headquarters, India.

COPY).

.150/1/B.M.

Headquarters Staff Office, Nairobi Area,
Nairobi, 28th June 1915.

CONFIDENTIAL.

From

The General Officer Commanding,
Nairobi Area,

To

The General Staff Officer (1),
Command Headquarters, Nairobi.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the operations against Bukeba which I was instructed to undertake (copy of instructions attached, Annexure 'A').

1 Section 28th Mountain Battery
2 coys 2nd Loyal North Lancs Regiment and
4 machine guns
3 coys 25th Bn. Royal Fusiliers and 4
machine guns
1 Double Company 29th Punjabis
3 coys 3rd King's African Rifles (400 rifles)
1 Section East Africa Regiment with 4 machine guns
1 Paridket Sappers and Miners
1 Bridging Section
'C' Section 26th British Field Ambulance
C/22 Indian Clearing Hospital

The marginally noted force was placed at my disposal, and Units left their stations as shown in Annexure 'B'.

2. The details of their arrival in Kisumu and the arrangements for their embarkation are shown in Annexure 'C'.

3. At 2 p.m. on the 30th June 1915 the ships weighed anchor and started for Bukeba.

At 10 p.m. on the 21st June 1915 all lights were ordered to be extinguished.

Bussiru Island was sighted about midnight (21st/22nd June 1915) and seen after 1 a.m. on the

2.

22nd instant the enemy on the island fired a rocket and lit four or five flares. It was a bright moonlight night, and it was consequently impossible to escape observation.

For the rest of the night the ships stood off about two miles from the shore. At 5.30 a.m. (22nd instant) they began to move in. H.M.S. Nyanza was sent to threaten Bukoba itself, while the rest of the fleet moved to the point of disembarkation, which I had selected during a reconnaissance on the 30th April 1915. This was about three miles North-East of Bukoba itself under the steep slopes of Karwazi Hill. H.M.S. Winifred led to select the actual landing place and was followed immediately by H.M.S. Usoga.

4. At 6.15 a.m. on the 22nd instant the Royal Fusiliers under Lt. Col. D. P. Driscoll, D.S.O., commenced landing, followed by the East Africa Regiment Machine Guns and the Faridkot Sappers and Miners. No opposition was met with, and a position to cover the landing was rapidly secured.

H.M.S. Rusinga was then brought in, and the disembarkation of the 2nd Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, the two companies 29th Punjabis, and the Section 28th Mountain Battery effected by about 11 a.m., and the whole landing party placed under the command of Lt. Col. C.E.A. Jourdain, D.S.O., 2nd Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

5. Meanwhile H.M.S. Nyanza had been engaged with the enemy's gun placed at the Roman Catholic Mission,

and

2.

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For the rest of the night the ships stood off about two miles from the shore. At 5.30 a.m. (22nd instant) they began to move in. H.M.S. Nyanza was sent to threaten Bukoba itself, while the rest of the fleet moved to the point of disembarkation, which I had selected during a reconnaissance on the 30th April 1915. This was about three miles North-East of Bukoba itself under the steep slopes of Karwazi Hill. H.M.S. Winifred led to select the actual landing place and was followed immediately by H.M.S. Usega.

4. At 6.15 a.m. on the 22nd instant the Royal Fusiliers under Lt. Col. D. P. Driscoll, D.S.O., commenced landing, followed by the East Africa Regiment Machine Guns and the Parikot Sappers and Miners. No opposition was met with, and a position to cover the landing was rapidly secured.

H.M.S. Rusinga was then brought in, and the disembarkation of the 2nd Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, the two companies 29th Punjab, and the Section 28th Mountain Battery effected by about 11 a.m., and the whole landing party placed under the command of Lt. Col. C.E.A. Jourdain, D.S.O., 2nd Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

5. Meanwhile H.M.S. Nyanza had been engaged with the enemy's gun placed at the Roman Catholic Mission, and

3.

and H.M.S. Winifred had opened fire on the South-Eastern slopes of Karwazi Hill, where some enemy had commenced firing, and machine gun fire was heard.

6. From 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. H.M.Ss. Winifred, Kavirondo, and Nyanza, having taken stations between Bussiru Island and Lumbembe Point, engaged the enemy's gun, which had moved to the mouth of the Kanoni River, at a range of about 4,000 yards. This gun was temporarily silenced.

7. It had been originally intended to land the King's African Rifles from H.M.S. Nyanza near the Customs House, but owing to the disclosure of the enemy's gun I now considered this inadvisable.

Progress by the landing party too was very slow, and they seemed to have worked a long way from the shore. So I decided to land the King's African Rifles at Lumbembe Point, about one mile South of the original landing place. They commenced disembarking at 11.45 a.m., and filled the gap between the Royal Fusiliers and the Lake.

8. I disembarked with my staff at 1 p.m. Our troops were then, commencing from the left, disposed in the following order :-

3rd King's African Rifles, 25th Royal Fusiliers with the East Africa Regiment Machine Guns and the 2nd Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. The 28th Mountain Battery were in position on the summit of Karwazi (East-North-East of Gun Spur) escorted by

the

4.

the 29th Punjabis. The Faridkot Sappers and Miners and the Bridging Section behind the Royal Fusiliers. 'C' Section 26th British Field Ambulance was situated in a banana plantation 200 yards North of the guns.

'C' Section No. 22 Indian Clearing Hospital, Stretcher Bearers were at first landed at the main landing but were later transferred to the King's African Rifles landing.

9. The enemy estimated at 200 rifles with 2 Maxim guns was holding the naturally exceedingly strong position from Arab Ridge to Gun Spur. This consisted of steep stony slopes surmounted by a line of much fissured crags which offered excellent machine gun positions and ideal cover for infantry. He had his greatest strength at first on Gun Spur, but as the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment advanced towards Arab Ridge he reinforced that portion of his line.

10. At 4 p.m., as a result of the advance of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment and the accuracy of our gun and rifle fire directed against Gun Spur and Fusilier Ridge, the enemy's defence thereon weakened, and the Royal Fusiliers and King's African Rifles advancing rushed Fusilier Ridge. Our advance on the left was greatly hampered by the marshes and high reeds on the banks of the intervening stream. By 6 p.m. Gun Spur was also occupied by our troops, and the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment reached Arab Ridge.

11. As it was now getting dark, and the reserve ammunition

ammunition had not come up from the ships, I decided to bivouac on the positions captured.

Orders were sent to the Section 28th Mountain Battery, Double Company 29th Punjabis, and 'C' Section 26th British Field Ambulance to close in to Gun Spur.

The troops were disposed for the night as follows :

Half Company King's African Rifles at Kjaia.

Half Company King's African Rifles on Western Spur of Karwazi, one and a half miles North-North-West of Kjaia.

The Royal Fusiliers on Fusilier Knoll.

Headquarters, 28th Mountain Battery, 29th Punjabis, two Companies King's African Rifles, and 'C' Section 26th British Field Ambulance on Gun Spur.

The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment on Arab Ridge.

While these positions were being taken up, the enemy's gun fired a few shots from a position 50 yards East of the Protestant Mission.

Some rifle firing took place early in the night, then all was quiet.

Our casualties this day were :-

25th Bn. ROYAL FUSILIERS.

Three Rank and File killed.

Six Rank and File wounded. (Two Rank and File afterwards died of wounds).

2nd LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT.

One Rank and File killed.

Five Rank and File wounded.

ammunition had not come up from the ships. I ordered
 to bivouac on the positions captured.
 Orders were sent to the Section 28th Mountain
 Battery, Double Company 29th Punjabis and 'C' Section
 28th British Field Ambulance to close in on Gun Spur.
 The troops were disposed for the night as
 follows :-
 Half Company King's African Rifles at Kala
 Half Company King's African Rifles on Western
 Spur of Kawaia, one and a half miles North-North-West
 of Kala.
 The Royal Fusiliers on Kawaia Hill.
 Headquarters, 28th Mountain Battery, 29th
 Punjabis, two Companies King's African Rifles, and
 'C' Section 28th British Field Ambulance on Gun
 Spur.
 The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment on Arab
 Ridge.
 While these positions were being taken up, the
 enemy's gun fired a few shots from a position 20
 yards East of the Protestant Mission.
 Some rifle firing took place early in the night,
 then all was quiet.

Our casualties this day were :-

29th BN ROYAL FUSILIERS

Three Rank and File killed
 Six Rank and File wounded. (Two Rank and File
 afterwards died of wounds).

2ND LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT

One Rank and File killed

Five Rank and File wounded.

3RD KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES.

Three Rank and File (Askaris) wounded.

Wednesday 23rd June 1915.

12. At 5.30 a.m. an urgent message was sent to the
 ships for more ammunition and food, which came up
 in the course of the morning.

13. The following orders were issued :-

The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment to move
 down Arab Ridge along Lanco Spur and then across
 Kanoni River and Kyaka Road on to the Hills South-West
 of Bukoba with a view to cutting off the enemy's
 retreat.

The 25th battalion Royal Fusiliers to advance
 from their bivouac direct on Bukoba along the flat
 ground.

The two guns of the 28th Mountain Battery and
 the guns of all the ships to cover the advance.

The King's African Rifles, the 29th Punjabis,
 Pariket Sappers and Miners, and the Bridging Section
 in reserve on Gun Spur.

The two Engineer Units had orders to follow
 the 25th Bn. Royal Fusiliers into Bukoba to remove
 useful instruments from the Wireless Station and
 demolish the rest and then destroy the Fort and
 Commandant's house.

14. At 6.15 a.m. artillery firing commenced. At
 7 a.m. the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment began
 moving, and the Mountain Battery took up a position
 in

7.

in the trees of Gun Spur and opened fire on men seen digging entrenchments round the Rest House. The enemy's gun replying to this fire from the Protestant Mission drew the fire of H.M.S. Winifred.

15. At 8.30 a.m. a heavy shower of rain came on which stopped all gun fire.

The rain ceased at 9.10 a.m.

16. At 9.30 a.m. the Double Company 29th Punjabis was sent to join the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment to quicken their advance. About the same time the Mountain Battery silenced the Maxim gun which was opposing the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment from the end of the spur down which they were moving.

17. At 9.45 a.m. H.M.Ss. Nyanza and Winifred engaged the enemy's field gun near the Protestant Mission.

18. At 10 a.m. the Royal Fusiliers had reached to within 300 yards of the swamp immediately North of the Rest House, but were then held up by snipers.

19. At 11 a.m. the enemy's gun was seen to limber up, and while retiring along the road above the Protestant Mission was disabled by the fire of the Mountain Battery. The fire from H.M.S. Kavirondo, which had moved close in to the East of the Wireless Station, combined with that of the Mountain Battery, effectually prevented all attempts of the enemy to move the gun.

The fire of H.M.S. Kavirondo had also greatly assisted the advance of the Royal Fusiliers.

20. At 11.30 a.m. H.M.S. Nyanza and H.M.S. Winifred moved close in to the shore just South of Kariar Island.

21. At 1.15 p.m. the Royal Fusiliers entered the Wireless Station. H.M.S. Kavironde covered their advance with 3-pr. and Maxim fire, and also did considerable execution during the final retirement of the enemy.

At 1.25 p.m. The German flag was hauled down by the Royal Fusiliers.

At 1.30 p.m. the enemy were seen retiring over the South Downs and were shelled by the ships and Mountain Battery.

At 2 p.m. the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment entered the town from the Rifle Range direction.

22. I had left the 29th Punjabis at the point of Lances Spur to cover the advance of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment across the valley, but now withdrew one company to act as escort to the Mountain Battery, which at 3 p.m. moved to Bukoba. I proceeded with them myself, and also took 'C' section 26th British Field Ambulance into Bukoba.

23. To protect our operations from the North, I left the King's African Rifles and the Company 29th Punjabis, all under the command of Lieut. Col. B. R. Graham, 3rd King's African Rifles. They were distributed from Lances Spur, Arab Ridge, and Gun Spur to Kjaia.

24. On arriving in Bukoba I decided to commence re-embarking

re-embarking the troops. At 4 p.m. all ships were ordered to come in as close as possible to the Custom House Landing Stage.

25. At 5.30 p.m. orders were issued for Lieut. Col. Graham's troops to come straight into Bukoba to Custom House pier.

The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment were now in position above the Protestant Mission, and were ordered to withdraw towards the Customs House, and furnish (at 6 p.m.) piquets on the Knell East of the Protestant Mission, and on the North end of the Escarpment running South from the Protestant Mission.

The Royal Fusiliers, who had also advanced a Company to the hills South of Bukoba, were directed to furnish (at 6 p.m.) two piquets on the same escarpment West and South-West of the Customs House, with one Company at the Customs House in support.

26. Re-embarkation was commenced at 6 p.m. and was continued steadily until 1.30 a.m. on the 24th instant. The King's African Rifles and 29th Punjabis came in at 8.30 p.m. and commenced embarking at once.

By 1.30 a.m. all had embarked with the exception of the outposts furnished by the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment and the Royal Fusiliers, two Companies from each Unit.

As the moon was then getting low, and the country was difficult, I considered it inadvisable to withdraw the piquets before dawn.

27. On the 24th instant, at about 5 a.m., the withdrawal

10.

withdrawal of the outposts and their embarkation commenced and was completed at 6.30 a.m. without any interference by the enemy.

28. H.M.S. Usoga had been directed to lie close in and be prepared to cover the withdrawal of the picquets with machine gun fire. H.M.S. Nyanza, having finished her embarkation, was ordered to stand off at about 2,000 yards from the shore, so as to bring gun fire on the South Downs, but neither ship had to fire.

29. H.M.S. Nyanza then proceeded to Bussiru Island to capture one German Non-Commissioned Officer and two askaris reported to be there. Some King's African Rifles were landed but no enemy were found on the island.

30. I left Bukoba in H.M.S. Winifred for Sango Bay. The other ships left for Kisumu at 10 a.m., by which time H.M.S. Nyanza had completed her operations on Bussiru Island.

31. The casualties on the 23rd June 1915 were as follows :-

25th Bn. ROYAL FUSILIERS.

Three Rank and File killed.

1 Officer and five Rank and File wounded.

2nd Bn. ROYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT.

One Rank and File wounded.

EAST AFRICA REGIMENT.

One Rank and File killed.

One Officer and three Rank and File wounded.

3rd KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES.

No casualties.

32. The total casualties for the two days were :-

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Killed Wounded</u>		<u>Killed Wounded</u>	
	<u>Officers</u>		<u>Rank & File</u>	
2nd Loyal North Lancashire Regiment	Nil	Nil	1	6
25th B. Royal Fusiliers	Nil	1	6	11
Two afterwards died of wounds				
East Africa Regiment	Nil	1	Nil	3
King's African Rifles	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
<hr/>				
Totals	Nil	2	7	23

33. All the ships arrived in Kisumu about 9 p.m. on the 25th instant and the re-entrainment of the troops commenced at once.

34. The operation had been completely successful.

35. The enemy's known casualties were as follows :-

- Europeans 3 killed and 3 wounded.
- Natives 13 killed and 26 wounded.

An unknown number of persons were killed or wounded during the bombardment.

36. We destroyed or captured :-

- 67 rifles
- 32,000 rounds of small arms ammunition
- 24 small gun ammunition
- One 2.9" Field Gun
- 2 machine gun barrels
- 5 machine gun belts

12.

2 wheels, axle, and machine gun feed block
 Several flags
 A quantity of military stores and clothing
 A quantity of explosives
 40 cases of kerosine oil
 15 cases of lubricating oil
 9 large canoes
 2 whaler boats
 1 motor launch (complete)
 2 small boats.

37. The wireless station was completely destroyed by dynamite and fire. The enemy had however removed some of the small portable instruments.

The Fort was blown up at its angles and gates whilst the main buildings were gutted by fire. All stores, ammunition, clothing, &c., were burned.

Government House was destroyed.

The Government School and Rest House were hit by several of our shells, both buildings being ruined. This was due to enemy trenches in the vicinity.

The Military and Police Lines were burned to the ground.

All boat sheds with their contents were burned.

38. The following were removed from Bukoba at their own request:-

6 European British subjects
 1 Indian British subject
 5 Greek subjects.

39. In concluding this report I wish to bring to notice

13.

notice the very satisfactory railway arrangements that were made. All worked without a hitch both when the troops were moving up to Kisumu and when they were returning.

40. The water transport arrangements were excellent.

Troops embarked and disembarked rapidly and methodically and travelled without discomfort.

The officers and men of all the ships worked exceedingly hard; without their efficient co-operation the expedition could not have been carried through; and the guns of the ships gave valuable assistance.

41. I wish to bring to notice the services of :-

Lieut. Col. C. E. Ferestier-Walker, Royal

Artillery, who acted as my C.R.A. and superintended the firing of all the guns, both those of the ships and those of the Mountain Battery.

Commander G. S. Thornley, Royal Navy, Senior

Naval Officer; and

Captain (Temporary Major) J. G. Gaddell, 45th Sikhs,

my Senior Staff Officer.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. M. STEWART, Brigadier-General,

COMMANDING NAIROBI AREA.

(COPY):

ANNEXURE 'A'.

SPECIAL FORCE ORDER

No. 1

By Major General M. J. Tigue, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O.,
 Commanding the Troops, British East Africa
 and Uganda.

NAIROBI, 6th June 1915.

1. A Force as under will operate in the Lake Area, under the Command of Brigadier General J. M. Stewart, C.B., A.D.C., leaving Kisumu on the 20th June 1915 :-

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Present Location</u>
1 Section 28th Mountain Battery	Nairobi
East Africa Regiment Maxim Detachment	Nairobi
Faridkot Sappers and Miners (less 2 Sections)	Mombasa Area
Bridging Detachment Sappers and Miners	Kajiado
Signal Unit	Nairobi
Loyal North Lancs. Regiment (less 4 Companies)	Nairobi
25th Bn. Royal Fusiliers (less 4 Companies)	KAJIADO
3 Companies 3rd King's African Rifles	Nairobi
No. 22/C Indian Clearing Hospital	Nairobi

2. AMMUNITION. 500 rounds per man, including ammunition carried on person. 300 rounds for Royal Engineer Units.

3. RATIONS. Units will take three days' rations from their stations. A fortnight's rations for all will be taken by the Supply and Transport Corps from Kisumu.

2.

4. TRANSPORT. (a) 300 porters will accompany the forces.

(b) Mules will be supplied for the following Regimental equipment :-

Ammunition at 150 rounds per rifle

Signalling

Tools

Medical

(c) Maxims will be carried by gun porters.

(d) 12 equipment mules to be taken for Royal Engineer 1st line equipment.

(e) 1 Non-Commissioned Officer and 2 men per Unit (2 men only in case of Units under 150 men) to arrive at Nakuru by the 15th June 1915 to take over Unit mules.

All mules will be entrained together from Nakuru.

5. BAGGAGE. Scale of baggage As In Standing Orders page 13, paragraph 20. No tents.

6. RETURNS. (a) To Director Supplies & Transport, strength return for ration purposes.

(b) To General Staff, Command Headquarters, return showing railway accommodation required, and approximate weight of stores. Ammunition and stores to be shown separately.

Both should be in by Wednesday evening, 9th June 1915, at latest.

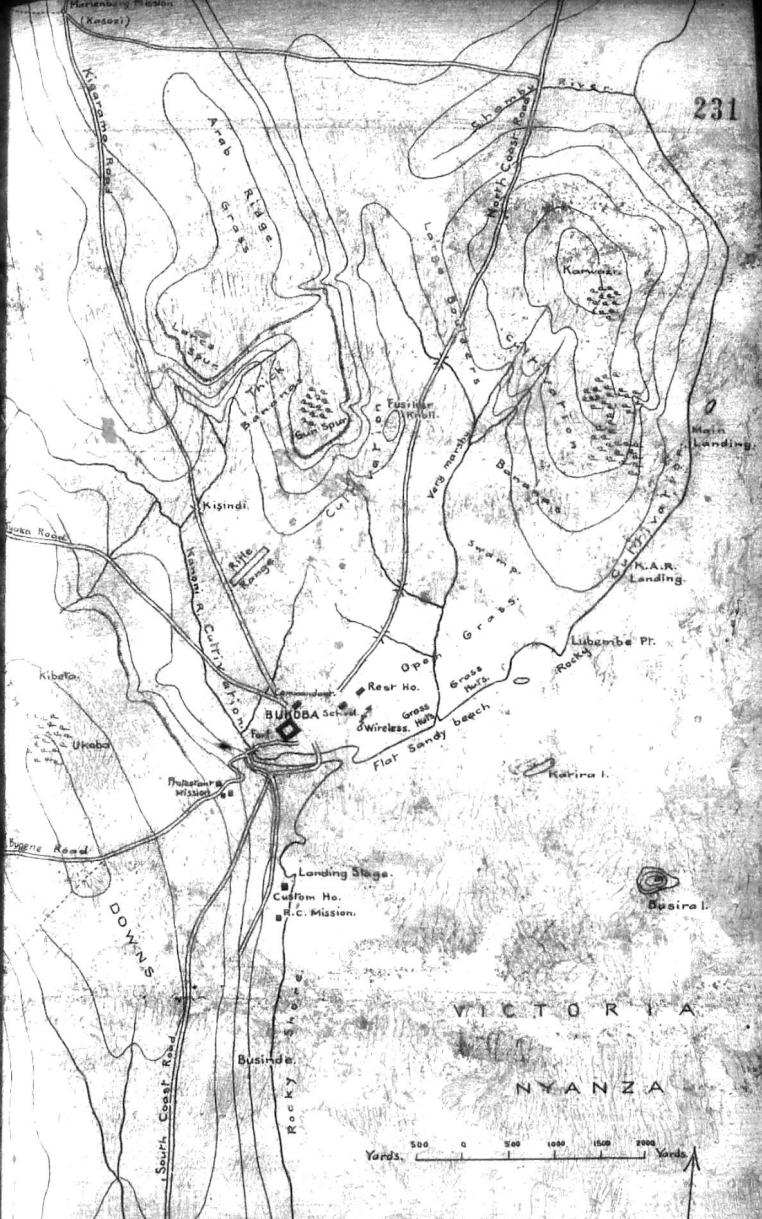
(Signed) G. H. SHEPPARD, Lt. Colonel,

GENERAL STAFF.

Train No	Unit	Station of Departure	Departs		NAIROBI		NAKURU		KISUMU		
			Date	Time	Date	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Date	Arr.	
1.	Ambulance Train	Nairobi	16th June	8.30	16th June	---	8.30	---	17th June	About 9.00	Proceeding as a special goods train
2.	3 Coys. K.A.R.	Nairobi	18th June	9.00	18th June	---	9.00	18th June	18.00	21.00	8.25
3.	Royal Fusiliers (less 4 Coys) Bridging Section R.E.	Kajiado	16th June	6.00	16th June	10.00	12.00	18th June	20.45	23.30	11.20
4.	Male Train	Nakuru	19th June	18.00	19th June	---	---	19th June	---	18.00	5.30
5.	1 Section 23th Mountain Battery Faridkot S.M. (less 2 Sections)	Nairobi Voi	19th June	9.00	19th June	---	---	19th June	---	18.00	5.30
6.	Loyal North Lances (less 4 Coys) F.A.R. Machine G. Det Signal Unit	Nairobi	19th June	12.00	19th June	---	12.00	19th June	20.45	23.30	11.20
	Detachment 29th Punjabis	Kajiado	18th June	9.00	18th June	---	---	19th June	---	---	1.30

Statement showing details of arrival of Units
in Kisumu and the arrangements for their embarkation.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Date & time of arrival</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>No. of Wharf</u>
Coys 3rd King's African Rifles	19th June 8.25 a.m.	Nyanza	New Pier
Coys Royal Fusiliers	19th June 11.20 a.m.	Usoga	New Pier
Bridging Section	19th June 11.20 a.m.	Nyanza	New Pier
Mules	20th June 5.30 a.m.		II Line New Pier
Section 28th Mountain Battery	20th June 8.25 a.m.	Rusinga	Old Pier
Section Paridket Sappers	20th June 8.25 a.m.	Usoga	New Pier
D' Coy 29th Punjabis	19th June 1 p.m.	Rusinga	Old Pier
North Lances Regiment	20th June 11.20 a.m.	Rusinga	Old Pier
E.A.R. Machine Gun Det.	20th June 11.20 a.m.	Usoga	New Pier
Signal Section	20th June 11.20 a.m.	Winifred	Old Pier
British Field Ambulance) Indian Clearing Hospital)	17th June 7.15 a.m.	Rusinga	Old Pier



R. Bennett