

275

40359
REC'D
SEP 15

EAST AFR. PROT.
40359 Secret

Classified Secret
1915
August
next previous Paper.
4325

German East Africa
Toward Soc's War Diary
for period July 4th - July 23rd

two ~~Books~~ by Sir G. Fiddes
See also 39732 and 39733

These War Diaries are very interesting and well repay perusal; I have marked a number of passages. See in particular the estimates of German and Belgian strength and the accounts of the successful Bukoba action and of the Tunkwa patrol. Thus I think the papers emphasize the extraordinary attention we obtain in East Africa and strengthen one's conviction that it would be an easy matter

P-74
next subsequent Paper.
40737

to deal once and for all
with German East Africa,
which is at present an open
sore, if only the requisite
reinforcements could be obtained.

Putly?

We shall no doubt hear from Gen 4/9/15
the Gov. as to the Turkana problem. There
is not much reason to suppose it
will have lasting effects.

W.S. 6.9.15

Pr. 1.9.15

Am 2.9.

40359

376

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

4th August 1915.

SECRET.

Sir,

See 39733 S

With reference to my Secret despatch of the 14th ultimo, I have the honour to forward for your information copy of the General Officer Commanding's War Diary from 4th to 23rd July 1915.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

H. Conway Bayard

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.

ENCLOSURE

In Dispatch Book No. of 14 July 1915

(COPY).

No. 215-0/136.

Command Headquarters, B.E.A. & U.,
Nairobi, 12th July 1915.

SECRET.

From

377

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 4th to the 9th July 1915,
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 in B.E.A. & U.

Copy forwarded for information to :-

The Chief Secretary to Government, Uganda.

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

The Senior Naval Officer, Victoria Nyanza.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

4th July 1915. Commander Headlam, Royal Indian Marine, left Mombasa yesterday, with transports, in order to demonstrate against Dar-es-salaam to assist the Navy in an attack on the 'Kenigsberg' in the Rufiji Delta.

All is reported quiet on the border.

5th July. There is much sickness among the 13th Rajputs, and the question of their transfer from Uganda will have to be considered.

Cable was received from the Secretary, War Office, asking for names, places of origin, and firms represented by five Greek refugees from Bukoba. This information is required with reference to possible future protection of property of certain Greek subjects.

It is now certain that the Germans are sending their mails through Portuguese East Africa. Steps are being taken to stop this.

It is again reported that only the light armament has been taken off the 'Kenigsberg'; the heavy guns are still on board.

Taveta is reported to be considerably strengthened by thorn saribas, &c., and the enemy are said to be quite anxious for us to attack them there.

The enemy is reported to have a force of 200 Europeans and about 750 askaris with some levies in the Langenburg-Ipyama District on the Nyasaland Border; this is probably an exaggeration.

6th July. A telegram was sent to the War Office with reference to Belgian co-operation from the Congo. It was

was pointed out that at present the Belgian forces, to the number of 17,000, exert little influence on the situation in East Africa.

M. Tembeur considers the occupation of Ruanda by Belgian troops most desirable as a preliminary to possible larger operations; the present appears to be a favorable opportunity for such an enterprise. The telegram went on to say that very categorical orders on the subject of Belgian operations would have to be issued by the Belgian Government so as to counteract the extensive local inertia.

German parties are raiding the Senje country West of Lake Natron. Otherwise all is quiet on the border.

7th July.

The 'Konigsberg' was attacked yesterday, and badly damaged, but it is not yet known if the damage is irreparable. Unless she is completely destroyed, it will not help the military situation much. In any case it will mean an addition of some 400 sailors to the mobile white fighting strength of German East Africa.

The Vei-Taveta railway was attacked yesterday at miles 13 and 21; damage done was inconsiderable.

It is reported that the enemy are forcing natives to work for nothing.

In the Kagera the enemy is actively patrolling but shows no sign of taking the offensive.

The enemy is reported to have constructed a small portable wireless station with the material removed from Bukoba.

8th

4/10/1914
Subsidiary, not serious, foreign
service companies. (MS)

8th July.

It has been suggested to Nyasaland that the King's African Rifles Company in that place should be relieved, as they have been on foreign service for over four years.

General Staff Officer (1) left for the Lake to discuss the situation generally with the Senior Naval Officer there.

It has come to light that many guns and rifles are in possession of natives (especially Indians) at Membasa. The General Officer Commanding Membasa Area recommends that these should be called in, and the suggestion has been approved.

9th July.

Two complete armoured motor cars are being sent out from England with equipment and personnel complete.

A cable was received from the War Office stating that a small Naval expedition would shortly leave Rhodesia, under Captain Spicer-Simson, with the object of acquiring command of Lake Tanganyika. That there appeared to be no military objection to a Belgian invasion of Ruanda provided this did not militate against a successful concentration at a later date.

*See last
page of the
report
from
the
Lake
(MS)*

The enemy are taking renewed precautions to prevent our agents getting information of what is happening on the Coast.

In the Eastern Lake Area the enemy have retired from the border, and are said to have gone to Niamongo.

There are indications that the Germans are experiencing some trouble with the natives in the vicinity

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service companies. WMS*

380

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vicinity of Bukoba.

It appears that on rare occasions the wireless station at Mwanza is able to get communication with Berlin. The latter station has recently requested Mwanza to increase its wave length.

(COPY).

No. 215/0/138.

SECRET.

ENCLOSURE

In Despatch Recd. at Army H.Q.

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

Nairobi, 24th July 1915.

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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 10th to the 16th 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 Nyanza.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

10th July 1915. Intercepted German wireless message from Schnee as follows :-

"July 6th enemy's naval forces attacked 'Konigsberg.' After 9 hours' fight enemy withdrew without having accomplished object. 'Konigsberg' remains with fighting capacity unimpaired; her losses small. Enemy gun boats sustained considerable losses."

A hostile attack on mile 75 of the Magadi Railway is reported. This requires confirmation.

A suspicious party of 2 Europeans, 3 askaris, and several porters is reported from the Chupulunga Forest, near the Amala. Its objective is believed to be the Uganda Railway towards Elburgon Station.

On both sides of the Lake the situation is unchanged.

11th July. The Naval Commander-in-Chief wires from Zanzibar on 11th - "'Konigsberg' totally destroyed to-day." This should mean her guns as well.

12th July. The enemy continue to patrol actively in the neighbourhood of Maktau.

The suspicious party reported from the Chupulunga Forest have written to say they wish to surrender. Steps are being taken to bring them in.

The enemy in Ruanda appear to be apprehensive of a Belgian advance and are reported to have strongly entrenched themselves to meet it.

A small British Naval expedition is proceeding from Rhodesia to secure the command of Lake Tanganyika.

Operations

2.

Operations are expected to commence about the end of August.

13th July. It is hoped that by the end of the month it may be possible to reduce expenses on the Lake by the paying off of the 'William Mackinnon'.

A reconnaissance of Mwanza by the 'Winifred' has been arranged. An attempt will be made to take tele-photographs.

Lieut. Col. Edwards, D.S.O., Inspector General of Police, has been sent to assume command of the Kagera line, and in future only African troops will be kept West of the Lake.

On the 12th the tracks of a large hostile force were found on the right bank of the Rombo River moving East.

In the Eastern Lake Area the enemy have withdrawn South of the Mara River and are reported to be going to Mwanza, leaving a small force at Ikoma. They broke the Mara bridge and destroyed Maganana Camp.

14th July. A telegram was sent to the Belgian Commander-in-Chief and also the Commander of the Kivu District suggesting action against Ruanda.

A report was received from G.O.C., Mombasa Area, of an engagement with the enemy at Mbuyuni. Our casualties are somewhat heavy, but further details are awaited.

Lieut. Col. Vallings, 29th Punjab, and Lieut. Wedd, attached K.A.B., were killed, and 7 British officers were wounded, one of whom was also captured.

15th July. An intercepted message from Sohnee to Bukoba describes the destruction of the 'Konigsberg'. She was on fire and all her guns out of action when her crew finally left her.

A cable was sent to the War Office, stating that Belgian authorities had been communicated with regarding invasion of Ruanda. This operation should not in any way militate against future action by the Belgians on a large scale in another theatre.

In the Coast Area seditionists are making use of the new Land Laws to stir up trouble, but nothing of a serious nature need be anticipated.

In the action at Mbayuni the enemy is believed to have suffered severely. His original strength was 1,000, increased to 2,000 during the fight, with 20 to 30 machine guns; the reinforcements came from the direction of Taveta and Ziwani Swamp.

The party of Europeans mentioned in Diary of 12th have been brought to Kericho. It consists of 2 Europeans and 11 natives.

16th July. G.O.C. and Staff, with H.E. The Governor and Staff, went to Voi and Maktau. All has been quiet there since the fight on the 14th.

(COPY).

No. 215-0/139.

SECRET.

ENCLOSURE

In Reply, Secret of H. M. G. S.

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

Nairobi, 27th July 1915.

396

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 17th to the 23rd July
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 Nyanza.

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RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

17th July 1915. The General Officer Commanding and H.E. The Governor visited Maktau, where the morale of the troops is excellent.

A cable from India stated that a howitzer battery was not being sent pending reply from the War Office regarding personnel. It was also regretted that neither a Mule Corps nor a Company of Sappers & Miners could be spared.

18th July. The General Officer Commanding left Voi for Mombasa, Zanzibar, and Mafia.

G.S.O. (1) returned to Nairobi.

Our total list of casualties at Mbuyuni :-

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing or Captured</u>
British Officers	2	6	1
Indian Officers	1	2	-
British Rank & File	1	10	-
Indian Rank & File	22	85	6 (25%)
African Rank & File	5	33	2 (33%)

All quiet on the frontier.

A small hostile patrol at Mzima was driven off, having lost all their kit and 2 wounded.

19th July. G.O.C. leaves Mombasa for Zanzibar this evening.

Sanction has been received from the War Office for Mr Wessels, the suspected Boer, to be sent to Ceylon for internment.

A native is reported to have been recently tried under Martial Law for assisting in a hostile Arab raid last October.

From information received there is little doubt that

2.

that the enemy suffered heavily at the recent fight at Mbuyuni.

One of our machine guns was lost during the retirement and some reserve ammunition also.

From the Eastern Lake Area it is reported that the 'Kwansa' is now afloat.

The Belgians are reported to have obtained some success in the Kivu-Ruanda district.

It has been ascertained from a German source that when all the guns on the 'Königsberg' were out of action the Commander blew up the ship.

20th July.

Telegram from the War Office directs that all possible care should be taken to protect Greek property in any subsequent operations against German East Africa.

Apparently sanction has been given to the detention on the Coast of the Monitors and hydro-planes now in use there. The Admiral intends to inspect the sunken 'collier' in Mansa Bay to-morrow.

A recent Naval reconnaissance of Darressalaam reports that a great number of Red Cross flags are flying over various buildings there. It is probable that the wilful dissemination of these flags is done with the object of protecting the town against bombardment.

The hospital ship 'Tabora' has also been placed in such a position as to partly screen the town from the sea.

It is again confirmed that the enemy lost heavily at the recent Mbuyuni fight, although the

official

official German communique only acknowledges one European wounded.

It is reported that hut tax is being collected in the Ndigodige Area of the Magadi district.

Rumours are again afloat of a hostile aeroplane on the border in the Rift Valley.

There are indications that the Germans are putting Mwanza in a thorough state of defence and are provisioning it.

A number of German natives are moving from German territory into British Ankole.

A memorandum on the state of affairs at Bukoba late last month shows clearly that German East Africa cannot be starved out. Clothing and boots are scarce, but money and other commodities are still easily obtainable.

21st July. There has been renewed hostile activity against the Maktau Railway, which has been blown up in two places; the damage done, however, was slight, and traffic was not even interrupted.

Arrangements are being made to put the wireless installation on the Lake steamer 'Winifred' into thorough working order, which up to date has not been working satisfactorily.

General Tighe's despatch on the Turkhana Expedition is attached as an appendix to this Resume.

22nd July. There is a prospect of getting personnel for the howitzer battery, promised from India, from either the Cape or Mauritius.

From a fairly reliable German source confirmation

is received to the rumour that the Germans have salvaged guns, rifles, machine guns, and ammunition from Mansa Bay.

23rd July. Lieut. Col. Mackay, now acting as Military Governor of Mafia, has been offered the command of a battalion of his regiment at home.

The enemy forces in the Coast area are now estimated at 3 companies armed with our .303 rifles, 10 machine guns, and some field guns.

6 field guns and 8 machine guns are reported to have been salvaged from Mansa Bay.

A partially successful attempt on the Uganda Railway was made on the 22nd, and rails were blown up in two places on the Voi-Taveta branch on the 20th; little damage was done, and traffic was not interrupted.

The enemy's dispositions in the Taveta district appear to be a strong detachment at Mbuyuni, with supports along the line Mwarusa-Taveta-Chala and Ziwani.

Within 12 hours the enemy could place 3,000 men and many machine guns at Mbuyuni.

Bukoba is now reported to have been evacuated by the enemy.

COPY).

No. 211-0/9.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Command Headquarters, B.E.A. & U.,
Nairobi, 16th July 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 herewith my report on the Turkhana Expedition, recently brought to a successful termination, under the command of Lieut. Colonel W. F. S. Edwards, D.S.O., Police Service Battalion.

2. I propose to record, for the present, the names of officers employed on subsidiary expeditions who have rendered distinguished service, and to submit those deserving of commendation at the end of the War.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

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

Commanding Troops in B.E.A. & Uganda,
(I.E. Force 'B').

REPORT ON TURKHANA EXPEDITION - 1915.

1. In November 1914 it was decided to send a Punitive Expedition against the Turkhana tribes, whose conduct had been far from satisfactory.

They repeatedly raided the neighbouring Samburu tribes, obliging the latter to evacuate a large portion of their grazing ground, and looted much stock from them.

2. The conduct of the operations was entrusted to Lt. Col. W. F. S. Edwards, D.S.O., in command of the Police Service Battalion.

The composition of the force was as under :-

	<u>British Officers</u>	<u>African Officers</u>	<u>British Ranks</u>	<u>African Ranks</u>
Police Service Battalion	12	-	2	300
1 Company 9th Soudanese Regt. (in last phase only)	2	2	-	67
Uganda Police	1	-	-	40
Armed Constabulary N. Frontier	2	-	-	14
Med. African	1	3	-	2
Total	18	5	2	423

Political Officer - Mr D. R. Crampton, D.C. (Turkhana District).

3. The area of operations comprised some 12,000 square miles West of Lakes Rudolf and Sugota.

The country is wild, and sparsely inhabited, barren and mountainous; and broken districts alternate with low lying and swampy areas, covered with thick bush. The climate is trying, both on account of the

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heavy

2.

heavy rains and the great heat.

4. The objects of the expedition were :-

- (i) To punish and exact retribution for their raids from the Turkhana tribes.
- (ii) To capture the principal refractory Chief Ebe and all other rebel Chiefs.
- (iii) To disarm sections of the tribes reported to be armed.

5. The operations were divided into three phases, the duration of which extended from 4th February to 28th May 1915.

6. The preliminary concentration of troops was made in three columns and was completed as under :-

- No.1 Column - Commander, Lieut. R. P. Rainsford, at Nginyan, on 30th January 1915, after 9 days' march.
- No.2 Column - Commander, Capt. W. Rigby, at Marich, on 29th January 1915, after 16 days' march.
- No.3 Column - Commander, Capt. C.S. Long Innes, at Ngabetok, on 2nd February 1915, after 21 days' march.

7. The first phase of the operations consisted in driving the country on to the Turkwell and rounding up stock. The area of operations was the valleys of Sugota and Kerio, flanked to the West by the Turkwell River.

The only active operations during this phase resulted in the loss of one policeman and two porters killed, and a despatch runner wounded. This occurred on the line of the Turkwell River.

Although

3.

Although there was little fighting, there was hard marching. An instance of which it is recorded that one column covered 120 miles in 4 days on one occasion, and 150 miles in 6 days on another; another column marched 36 miles in 16 hours without water.

8. A week was spent in placing four different columns in position for the second phase of the operations.

Three columns moved practically parallel to each other, and in a general direction from South to North, covering the country between Lake Rudolf and the Turkwell River, North of a line Ngabetok - South end of Lake Rudolf.

The fourth column operated in the area enclosed by Purle River-Recky Peak-Nakoko Hill. In addition to the above, the line of the Turkwell was also picquetted.

During the movements of these columns, four attacks were made by the enemy; two of them were at night on the Turkwell River line, resulting in one Policeman being killed, and four severely wounded.

An attack was also made on a grazing guard on the 8th April 1915, when some stock was carried off (this was afterwards recovered), and one man was wounded.

The fourth attack was made with considerable tenacity on a small patrol, one policeman being killed.

9. As a preliminary to the third phase of the operations, eight days were spent in reorganising the force.

The area covered comprised that lying West of Lake Rudolf and between Mts. Labur, Pelegech, and Singhote-Tarash, and Muresekar Range; and Kozibar Hill-Kozibar River, and the Turkwell River, below the point where the former runs into the latter. In this phase a detachment of the 9th Scudanesse Regiment from Morengole co-operated.

Two flying columns operated from the Kozibar River - 'A' Column to the North, as far as the line Tarash-Kagwalas; 'B' Column through the Kagwalas Hills to Pelegech Mountain, after which it was divided into ~~two columns~~. One of these (No. 2 Column of the Police Service Battalion, under Captain Rigby), operated towards and to the North of Labur Mountain; it then wheeled South and drove the country West of Lake Rudolf, towards Laramet Camp. The other portion worked due East, also towards Laramet Camp.

Meanwhile 'A' Column closed in to fill the gap, Kagwalas Hills - Murukanyarif.

The efforts of these columns were directed to rounding up stock, and the capture of Ebe and other Chiefs.

In the former, the troops met with considerable success; but owing to lack of guides and want of knowledge of the country the rebel Chiefs succeeded in evading capture. In this they were greatly helped by the difficult nature of the ground.

The Officer Commanding the Expedition, however, is confident that the three principal Chiefs - Ebe, Lelel, and Lekwell - suffered heavily in loss of stock, and their power is finally broken.

5.

It was found that, as far as rifles were concerned, the Turkhana were unarmed.

10. The Supply and Transport arrangements were entirely dependent on porter and donkey transport, principally the latter. They were controlled by the Adjutant and Quartermaster of the Police Service Battalion, Captain Le Blanc G. Smith, and are reported to have been most satisfactory.

11. During the expedition the health of the force suffered considerably, 25 per cent. of the British officers being invalided, and 8 per cent. of the rank and file; in addition to this, a large percentage was treated for malaria and dysentery.

In the Kerio Valley, an unknown epidemic attacked No. 2 Column, causing over 20 deaths in a few days.

12. Our casualties during the operations were :-

<u>Killed</u>		<u>Wounded</u>		<u>Missing</u>	
Comb.	Non.Comb.	Comb.	Non.Comb.	Comb.	Non.Comb.
8	4	18	2	3	-
<u>Died of Disease</u>					
24	9				

The enemy's casualties are reported as :-

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Captured</u>
407	86	63

Stock of all kinds captured totalled nearly 150,000 head.

13. While the detachment of the 9th Soudanese Regiment

Regiment was taking part in the Turkhana operations, a party of some 40 men was left at Merengoli, under Mulagim-Awal Isa Effendi Mohamed, 9th Soudanese Regiment.

On April 29th, at about 7.30 a.m., a report was received that a raid by a large body of natives (Merile or Turkhana) was being carried out against the Karamoja tribes.

The Effendi at once moved out with 30 men, and some 15 minutes after leaving camp he encountered the enemy, estimated at 2,000 men with some 40 rifles.

He at once attacked them, drove them off, and recovered the looted stock.

The enemy's losses were estimated at about 200 killed. 10 rifles and 200 spears were captured.

The losses of the Soudanese detachment were two porters killed and one wounded.