

EAST AFRICA PROT

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RRC-17 SEP 15

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Gov. *Boyd* *Soust*

German East Africa

1915

18 Aug.

towards S. O.C. & War Diary

Last previous Paper.

for period July 24th - August 6th

NO
42529

Mr ~~Boyd~~
Mr ~~Boyd~~
Sir G. Rhodes.

There is a good deal in this about
the reported salvage of ammunition
from a sunken "U-Boat" by the
Germans.

Note also the estimates of the
German strength.

Boyd

H. D. S. 8/9/15
18/9/15

W. C. O. 9/15

20.9.15

J. Boyd 9.15

AS. 12. 20. 9.

Next subsequent Paper.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

18th August 1915.

SECRET.

Sir,

With reference to my Secret despatch of the
4th instant, I have the honour to forward for your
information copy of the General Officer Commanding's
War Diary from 24th July to 6th August 1915.

Gov. 40359 S

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

A. Conway Bejard

GOVERNOR.

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

(COPY).

ENCLOSURE

In Dispatch Secret 18 Aug^t 1915.

No. 2150/141.

SECRET.

Command Headquarters,

525

Nairobi,

5th August 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 ~~24th~~ to the 30th
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 in 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.

ENCLOSURE

In Dispatch ~~Secret~~ of 13 Aug 1915

(COPY)

No. 216-O/141.

SECRET.

Command Headquarters,
Nairobi,

525

5th August 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
Resume of my War Diary, from the 24th to the 30th
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 in 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.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

24th July 1915. All quiet. The General Officer Commanding arrives at Mombasa from Zanzibar to-night.

25th July. The G.O.C. wires that he has seen H.E. the Naval Commander-in-Chief. The sunken 'collier' at Mansa Bay is awash and not in deep water. It is almost certain that considerable salving has and is taking place. Mansa Bay is reported to be mined. Before the arrival of the 'collier' at Mansa Bay, the limit to the armed forces in German East Africa was some 14,000 rifles. Now this number will be capable of a large increase. Consequently the general situation has changed greatly. The advantage of the Germans.

The Admiral is of opinion that the 'Konigsberg' 4.1 guns can be saved; but it is impossible to prevent this except by taking Dar-es-Salaam and sending a strong force down to Rufigi, and of course not enough troops are available in British East Africa for such an operation.

26th July. The German forces West of the Lake are now concentrating near Ikimbi and Kigali.

The presence of a hostile raiding party on the Railway near and West of Samburu was reported at 10.30 p.m. The G.O.C. Mombasa Area at once stopped the running of the up mail and sent a party to Mackinnen Road to deal with the raiders.

Friction between the German authorities and the Arabs is reported from the Coast.

From the Eastern Lake Area it is reported that

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a considerable amount of rice has been taken from Ukerewe to Mwanza.

All information confirms the fact that the enemy is now weak on the Kagera line.

On the 23rd the enemy were reported to be concentrating for an attack on Abercorn (Nyassaland border).

27th July.

The enemy succeeded in blowing up the railway line in four places between Samburu and Mackinnen Road; traffic delayed 1 1/2 hours, no other damage.

A movement of German troops down the Tanga Railway line is reported, and hostile movements in the Umba Valley. This is probably with the object of protecting the 'collier' in Mansa Bay.

Confirmation is received to the report that the enemy have retired from the Kagera line and are concentrating about Tabere (Lake Ikimba).

Reliable information has been obtained that Mwanza is now very strongly held and fortified.

At the end of June the steamer 'Mwanza' was afloat and had one 1.4" gun mounted on her.

[It is reported that 5,000,000 rounds of small arm ammunition, some guns and shells, and 800 rifles have already been salvaged from Mansa Bay. Another source reports 5 guns and 3 machine guns. Salvage operations are probably still in progress.]

28th July.

All quiet. It is reported that the Admiral has sent war ships into Mansa Bay to deal with the sunken 'collier'.

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29th July. Five 7 pr. old pattern Mountain Artillery guns are being sent us from India. These will be extremely useful in bush fighting.

The enemy in the Meshi area appear to be concentrating near Muheza, on the Tanga Railway, where the Dar-es-salaam road comes in.

Native rumour gives the losses during the 'Konigsberg' operations at 25 killed and many wounded.

Mbuyuni is still strongly held by the enemy. It is reported that they are using a water hole to the South of that place.

Our Masai are reported to have raided German territory near Ikoma Fort, when they killed 5 of the enemy and captured 2,000 head of stock.

30th July. A request has been made by the Belgian authorities for assistance from Uganda in the matter of porters. A reply was sent that this could not be agreed to. General Tighe, however, agreed to maintain the present supply of rations and place them at such a place, within our border, as might be most convenient to the Belgians.

Movements of German troops towards Muheza (Resume July 29th) is confirmed, probably due to anxiety about the Coast near Tanga.

[Here 1915 German ammunition has been found. It is noted that such specimens are discoloured, perhaps by water.]

At the fight at Mbuyuni on the 14th the enemy are reported to have lost 7 Europeans killed.

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The estimated strength of Germans and Austrians now in German East Africa is 5,047. Of these 2,700 are women and children and males not available or incapable of bearing arms; 169 is the estimate of killed and prisoners since the outbreak of war, leaving 2,178 as the estimated number of European fighting men in German East Africa.

The latest estimate of the enemy's forces gives, in addition to the above, 8,650 African soldiers, 4,170 African levies and recruits, 60 guns of varying calibre, and 66 machine guns.

(COPY).

No. 215-C/142.

SECRET.

ENCLOSURE

In Reply, Please Refer to 18 Aug 1915

530

Command Headquarters, B.E.A. & U.,
Nairobi, 9th August 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 31st July to the 6th August
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 in 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.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

31st July 1915. A summary of the situation in British East Africa as it is at present, taking into consideration all new factors, was sent to the War Office.

The Uganda Railway was again blown up this morning near the same place as on the 27th; the natives must be harbouring the raiding parties, and steps are being taken to enforce tribal responsibility.

1st August. 'A' and 'B' Companies, 1st King's African Rifles, are long time expired for foreign service. Arrangements have been made for them to return to Nyassaland.

2nd August. A precis of the letter to the War Office, referred to in Resume for 31st July, was cabled to the War Office.

It has been ascertained that salvage operations are not at present being carried out at Mansa Bay, but there can be little doubt that much material has been salvaged.

It is not known if the 'Konigsberg' guns were damaged in the recent operations or not. It is certain that she expended a good deal of ammunition, and one very loud explosion occurred on board.

The merchant ships up the Rufigi are still undamaged.

The German ship 'President' has been destroyed up a creek near Lindi.

On July 31st, one of our patrols surprised a hostile patrol between Mzima and Maktau, completely routing

routing them and inflicting several casualties. Our casualties nil.

Confirmation is received that the enemy is making Ikoma Fort a base.

● s.s. Mwanza is now making trips on the Lake, but is reported to have no gun on board, and her steaming power is greatly reduced.

3rd August. G.S.O. (III) left for Mombasa to see the Admiral. The latter, it is thought, wishes to discuss the subject of the salvage of ammunition &c. from Mansa Bay.

It is reported from Maktau that strong enemy patrols came within 6 miles of ~~that place~~; the Moveable Column is going out to-day to try and round up one of them.

In the Coast area, one of our patrols on the Uмба River surprised an enemy patrol, killing one European and causing other casualties.

[It is reported that the enemy have tested salvaged rifle ammunition and find it uninjured by the sea water.]

The district between the Chisinga and Rukumbia Rivers in Uganda is reported clear of the enemy.

4th August. The Moveable Column from Maktau failed to find the enemy.

The General Officer Commanding and G.S.O. (I) left for Kajjale en route for Magadi.

A patrol of the 17th Cavalry from Bisali captured 5 German whites and 2 askaris at Lengide West; and a patrol of the E.A.M.F. burnt Ngaruka

(South

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(South of Lake Natron); they also captured some cattle and goats.

5th August. All quiet.

6th August. General Officer Commanding and G.S.O. (I) returned from Kajiado.

Much money has already been laid out on the project of the Seda Factory, and it is incumbent on us to give it adequate protection, as is being done.

The War Office is unable to provide the necessary personnel for the Howitzer Battery promised by India. As the promise was conditional on the provision of personnel, the howitzers will not now be forthcoming - at any rate, at present.

Information received from the War Office that 4 armoured cars with necessary equipment and personnel left South Africa for British East Africa on the 25th July; these will be of great use to us West of Maktau.

Natives from the Coast report that heavy fighting is anticipated after the Ramasan.

Two companies of German Mounted Infantry are reported to be in the Arusha-Lengide district; they are 90 and 120 strong respectively, and are said to contain many whites.

Hut tax is said to be being collected by the Germans from the natives North of Mara River.

The German steamer 'Heinrich Otto' is reported to be still running in Smith Sound (Lake Victoria).

[Further confirmation is received of the salvage of small arm ammunition from Mansa Bay.]