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German East Africa
Forwarded to the War Dept
for period Sept. 25th to Oct. 15th 1914

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

27th October 1915.

SECRET.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a Résumé of the General Officer Commanding's War Diary from September 25th to October 15th inclusive.

2. With reference to the delay in executing a condemned spy, mentioned under date of October 13th, I would state that I was in Zanzibar at this time and that no such harmful effects as are alleged were apparent or brought to my notice.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

H. Lawry 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 Despatch No. 107 of 27.10.1915

(Copy)

SECRET

No. 215-0/188.

420

Command Headquarters, B.E.A. & U.,
Nairobi, 24th October 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 Resumé
of my War Diary, from the 25th September to the
15th October 1915 inclusive, for the information of
His Excellency and the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) S. H. SHEPPARD, Colonel,

for Major General,

Commanding in B.E.A. & U.

Copy forwarded for information to :-

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

RESULTS OF WAR DIARY.

25th September 1915.

A meeting of Railway Officials and General Staff was held at Command Headquarters to-day at which still further measures for the defence of the Uganda Railway were decided upon.

Detailed reports (much delayed) on the action at Longido West on the 21st were received. We attacked a force of the enemy of about 100-150 men, in a strong defensive position, with 500 men. After a five hours' fight we had to withdraw, with a fairly heavy casualty list :-

	<u>Europeans</u>	<u>Africans</u>
Killed	2	12) Enemy also with-) drew the same
Wounded	2 officers, 3 rank & file	34) evening, leaving) 12 dead and) many stores &c.) on the ground.
Missing	2	4
	Rifles lost - 10.	

28th September.

G.S.O. (1) left last night to address a meeting of settlers at Lumbwa and Nakuru.

27th September.

Naval reconnaissance in the Rufiji Delta took place on 14th. Enemy used three 3 prs. and 2 machine guns captured by them on the 'Asujua'. It was ascertained that prisoners that everything has been removed from 'Honigsberg'.

The enemy is reported to have no guns on the Coast at or South of Kilwa.

From information lately received it would appear possible that only one store ship (that sunk in Manza Bay) has arrived in German East Africa.

On the other hand, however, there is no doubt that many hundreds, if not thousands, of rifles have been

2.

been lately distributed in German East Africa, that there is now no shortage of ammunition, and that 2 P. field guns opposed the recent naval raid into Tanga Bay, while the sea mines destroyed by the Navy in Tanga Bay were of a pattern which could not have been made locally.

And it would seem unlikely that all the above could have been salvaged from the Mansa Bay ship after the fire and heavy explosions which occurred on board.

Several collisions with hostile patrols occurred yesterday in the Voi district.

Ngare Sero reported free of the enemy.

All quiet in Uganda.

G.S.O. (1) returned from War Council tour, good results in the way of recruiting are expected.

28th September. G.O.C. inspecting at Kajjasi and Bissil.

All quiet to-day.

29th September. Telegram received from the Chief of the

General Staff, India, intimating that 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition being sent to British East Africa for the defence of the East African coast. The cost of this ammunition is estimated to be 20 million rupees. This will be sent by monthly instalments of 1,000,000 rounds.

Best found on railway near Tanga yesterday.

G.S.O. (2) leaves for Mombasa to address Chamber of Commerce on military situation.

30th September. Ten 4.1" guns have been removed from the

Reserve and are said to be mounted 1 at Mwanza and 9 at Tanga.

It is believed that the rest of the

being fitted with torpedo tubes at Darassalaam. Five torpedoes were recovered from the 'Konigsberg'.

The crew of the 'Konigsberg' is reported to be distributed as under :-

100 to Lakes Victoria and Tanganyika.
70 remain in Rufiji Delta.
Remainder to Kilimanjaro.

About 300 Germans, crews of merchant ships, entered German East Africa recently from Mozambique, &c.

At 7.30 p.m. on 25th a bomb exploded on the Uganda Railway, mile 127/12, only damaging the rails.

In a patrol encounter early yesterday morning, at mile 28 Voi-Maktau Railway, we lost 2 British officers and 12 men killed, 5 men wounded and 5 missing (all Loyal North Lancs.), losing 15 rifles and capturing 2. The enemy lost 1 European and 3 askaris killed.

The enemy is reported to be collecting a force in Mwanza to again advance North of the Mara River.

G.O.S. and Staff left at 11 p.m. for Mombasa.

1st October. The G.O.C. and G.S.O. (1) returned to-day.

2nd October. A successful meeting, at which all classes were represented, was held at Mombasa. All unanimously placed themselves at the disposal of the Government.

A telegram was received from India which was not encouraging to the attempt to produce ammunition locally. It was maintained that the difficulties attendant on such production were too great to hope for success, and India declined to send the specifications asked for. But India promised that

every effort would be made to comply with all reasonable demands for gun ammunition, which is very satisfactory.

The question of the indiscriminate blowing up of trains was discussed by the G.O.C. with the Admiral. The latter was doubtful of the legality of such procedure, and a telegram was sent to the War Office soliciting an opinion. The War Office replied - "Retaliation would be unjustifiable".

3rd October. Nothing to report.

4th October. The G.O.C. inspected the defences at Gazi, and chose a site for the new defensive line at Likoni to protect Mombasa from the South.

The question of the deportation of some 400 undesirables (Arab, Swahili, and other natives) from Zanzibar to Mokalla, on the Arabian Coast, was referred to the Chief of the General Staff, India.

5th October. A cable was received from the War Office asking for particulars of transport required in the event of reinforcements being sent from South Africa.

A cable was sent to the War Office stating that retaliation for the indiscriminate blowing up of trains was unjustifiable.

A cable was sent to the War Office that a reply would be sent to their cable, regarding reinforcements from South Africa, by the 14th instant.

One week an Indian subject with German trade connection was tried at Zanzibar and sentenced to death under Martial Law on charges of espionage and conveying

conveying information to the enemy. The proceedings were confirmed by the Area Commander and counter-signed by the G.O.C., and orders were given for the sentence to be carried out forthwith. Prisoner's counsel appealed to H.E. the Governor, who in his capacity of High Commissioner ordered the execution to be postponed without consulting the G.O.C. in the matter. His Excellency, on being referred to by the G.O.C., stated that he was exercising his prerogative as His Majesty's representative. As an important principle of Martial Law was involved, a reference was made to the War Office deprecating the recognition of any right to appeal from sentences passed under Martial Law.

A report was received that the Germans intended making a military raid on Palma to secure stores and that the Portuguese were too weak to resist.

A wire has been received from South Africa reporting the despatch of 500 bombs addressed to the Officer Commanding, South African Contingent, Nairobi.

Masai report that the enemy have three large camps at Nairobi. The Natron Column of the recent German retreat into the Southern Masai appear to have retreated to Ngorongoro.

The German forces in Ruanda are estimated by the Belgians to be 80 Bushy, 1,000 ankaris, with three 1.4" guns and 4 machine guns.

6th October. A 20-lb. bomb was found on the Voi-Maktou line half way between Bura and Maktou. The bomb was successfully removed.

The enemy are still evidently holding the

6.

Ziwani Swamp, Mbuyuni, and Jipi Lake in some strength.

7th October. The Uganda Railway was blown up at mile 249 early this morning, and the down mail was partially derailed. The K.A.R. Mounted Infantry are now to be stationed at Mashuru for the present.

A Wanyamwezi deserter came into Maktau from Moshi.

A cable was received from General Smuts, Pretoria, stating that 5 batteries with staff, one ammunition column, and 10 per cent. wastage would be sent from South Africa early next month.

8th October. The G.O.C. left Maktau for Voi.

In reply to a question as to what particular Martial Law we are acting under, and a supposition that Martial Law had not been proclaimed in Zanzibar, a cable was sent to the War Office to the effect that Martial Law was being administered under a Proclamation by the Sultan which proclaimed Martial Law on the same footing as in British East Africa.

A cable was received from the War Office stating that the indiscriminate burning of trains is considered independent of military and other groups.

The offer of five batteries from the Union Government was referred to the War Office. At the same time it was pointed out that a Brigade of good infantry was absolutely necessary before any serious advances could be made. It was pointed out that such an advance in the near future would greatly assist

the

the expected Belgian offensive. A suggestion was made that mounted troops, if available, could be usefully employed on the Longido line.

The name of the Mamba Bay ship is now given as the "Eronburg".

It now appears that the enemy's losses in the patrol affair South of Maktou, on the 14th ultimo, were 37 askaris and not 31.

Enemy patrol activity is noticeable in the district Ejiri Desert - Railway line.

The German raid into the Southern Masai Reserve has proved to have been abortive.

Inter-tribal fighting is reported among the German Baganda.

The latest estimate of the enemy's forces in German East Africa shows :-

Whites	2,120
African Askaris	9,930
" Levies	2,130
Machine Guns	75
Guns	Ten 4.1", two 3.5", two 2.4", three 1 pr. (Gatling), two Q.F. 7, four breechloading 3", six field guns (salvaged), three 3 pr., 38 guns of small calibre.

~~7th October~~ 0700. 1st Vei for Nairobi

The enemy, when approaching the railway for purposes of making a raid, moves very cautiously, e.g. 20 miles in 60 hours.

A contact mine was discovered and removed at mile 166/6 on 7th October.

The hostile forces are reported from South of the Mara.

15th October. All quiet.

The sick returns show a general improvement except for that of the 25th Royal Fusiliers.

The 130th Baluchis have lost 4 British officers and 100 rank and file since arrival.

11th October. Through Captain Jesser Coops, 2nd Rhodesians, who has just returned from South Africa, it is reported that the Union Government would sooner send men and munitions to East Africa than to England, but of course Imperial interests must come first.

From the Coast area the following is reported: many Europeans and 1,500 askaris are reported at Muhesa, but this number of askaris is probably exaggerated. A large camp is reported at Mohovu.

The bomb found at mile 156/6 (October 9th) was an old one which had failed to explode.

The enemy forces South of the Mara have now broken up.

An important fight is reported from a German source to have taken place at Luvungi, on the Rusizi River (Congo border), on the 28th September, in which the Germans lost two Europeans killed and two wounded.

12th October. A telegram received from the Resident at Salisbury to the effect that a more active defensive policy on the border is to be adopted. This was rendered possible by the advent of reinforcements from Rhodesia.

The two officers deputed by the Union Government to come to British East Africa to study local conditions are Lieut. Col. A. M. Hughes, D.S.O., and Lieut. Col.

(11)

Dirk van Deventer, leaving Durban about October 15th.

A cable was despatched to the War Office venturing to suggest that the good work and gallant acts performed by many British officers should receive some recognition.

Information was received that the War Office have declined to accept the offer of the Union Government to send 5 batteries to British East Africa.

13th October. A telegram expressing the G.O.C.'s grateful thanks to the Union Government for their offer of assistance was sent to General Smuts.

There is a strong rumour that the tribes on the German littoral South of the Rufiji River have risen against the Germans.

Our delay in executing a condemned enemy spy in Zanzibar is reported to be already having harmful effects there.

An enemy patrol crossed the South end of the Chyulu Range on the night of the 8th and slept near a Wakamba village. The inhabitants undoubtedly assisted the enemy. Their conduct is being considered into with a view to punishment.

14th October. A telegram was received from General Smuts saying that owing to the demands of the Russian contingent it was impossible to send the 5 batteries as early as November, but that it was hoped to send 3 in January and perhaps the remaining 2 later.

15th October. Our telegram Q-5/2 was sent to the War Office giving

giving data for transport requirements for any reinforcements which may be sent to B.E.A. from South Africa.

Reports received from the Coast that a large force of the enemy has crossed the Ramisi River with the object of attacking our Gadi-new post. A party of 40 attacked the outlying picquets of the post and then retired.

The Admiral is sending the 'Mersey', 'Hyacinth', and 'Challenger' to stand by off the Coast.

Movements of troops were carried out to meet the situation.

Strange dhows have been seen in the vicinity of Mafia.

It is suggested that any aggressive action directed against the small Coast towns of German East Africa South of the Rufiji might have considerable results in view of the small garrisons kept there and the disaffection of the natives.

An enemy deserter confirms the report of dissatisfaction among the enemy black troops, but their discipline is still good.

An enemy deserter has returned from the permanent way of the Uganda Railway at mile 218/5 yesterday.

The German raid into the Southern Masai Country is now said to have been a purely political move to gain the sympathy of the Masai. It completely failed in its object.

It is confirmed that the 2nd Battalion recently been moved to Bukoba from Biaramba.

Fighting is reported between the Belgians and

11.

Germans on the 15th, 23rd, and 24th September. No details are available but it appears that the enemy lost 3 Europeans killed.