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11 Nov.
Last previous Paper.

German East Africa
Towards S. O. R.'s War Diary for
period Oct 12th to Nov 5th incl.

See on 9w 2130

2130
copy to Adams 3/1/16

Next subsequent Paper.
for
229

2128

592

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI.
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

SECRET.

11th November 1915.

Sir,

Gen 217¹⁵/₁₆
With reference to my Secret despatch of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to forward for your information, copy of a Resume of the General Officer Commanding's War Diary from October 17th to November 5th inclusive.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Howard Bayard

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 Secretariat of A. I. D.

No. 215-0/158.

Command Headquarters, E. A. & U.,

6th November 1915.

SECRET.

From

593

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 October to the 5th
November 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 E. E. A. and 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.

17th October 1915. G.O.C. left for Kisumu and the Kagera line.

No enemy force of any considerable size crossed the Ramisis River; the original reports were much exaggerated.

Information was received from the War Office to the effect that the cargo of the ship sunk by the Navy in Mansa Bay had all been successfully salvaged by the Germans. It consisted of 1,600 rifles, 2 7-pr. guns, small arm and gun ammunition.

The Admiral has been asked to destroy by gun-fire the Dar-es-salaam workshops.

18th October. The Admiral does not think the likelihood of being able to damage the workshops without the assistance of aircraft would be worth the expenditure of ammunition.

A telegram was sent to the War Office regarding the general reorganisation of the different staffs prior to an advance.

An appreciation, dated August 31st, was received from General Tombeur, the Belgian Commander-in-Chief. He lays great stress on the importance of attacking Dar-es-salaam and Tanga as well as Mwanza. He does not appear to grasp the importance of the advance on Taveta in conjunction with operations directed against Arusha and Moshi via Longido.

19th October. The line between miles 63 and 73 on the Uganda Railway was mined in three places to-day. One bomb was removed without damage, one killed 2 sepoy, and the third derailed a goods train.

News has been received that a 4-company battalion of "Cape Boys" is to be recruited and sent from South Africa for service here.

In Uganda we ambushed an enemy patrol at Tundanjojo, on the South bank of the Kagera River, wounding one and killing one of the enemy.

The enemy are reported to be contemplating laying a telegraph line between Bukoba and Kigale.

20th October. The Secretary of State has wired that he will sanction universal service in British East Africa on the Governor's assurance that the Protectorate generally is in favour of it.

A telegram was sent to the G.O.C., Cape Town, asking him to send a further contingent for the Howitzer Section in view of contemplated heavy casualties on account of the climatic conditions.

A cable was sent to the War Office asking for permission to correspond direct with General Smuts on all matters the main principles of which have been settled. An answer in the affirmative was received from the War Office.

21st October. Approval has been given by the War Office to the appointments of Brigadier General Mallett as I.G.O., Colonel Sheppard as a Brigade Commander, and to the temporary appointment of Major Dolbe as G.S.O. (1).

The condemned enemy spy referred to in Resume of 13th October has been publicly executed in Zanzibar.

22nd October 1915. All quiet.

23rd October. Food is now reported as plentiful in German East Africa.

The enemy appear to be practising a game of bluff on the Kagera line, there are continual patrol movements which are undoubtedly meant to hide their real strength.

24th October. There are rumours of a considerable hostile concentration between the Mara river and the frontier, but these require confirmation.

25th October. There is some confirmation of yesterday's report regarding the hostile gathering on the Mara River.

Telegram received from General Smuts confirming previous notification that the War Office had requested the Union Government of South Africa to provide one Infantry Brigade, with auxiliary services, as well as 500 Cape Boys for service in British East Africa. He asked for details of transport, &c., required to be given to Lieut.-Col. Hughes, one of the South African delegates.

There appears to be considerable hostile activity in the Eastern Lake Area. This is probably due to political reasons and the need of keeping the African troops employed.

26th October. A goods train was mined at mile 63 on the Uganda Railway at 3 a.m., little damage was done, and the traffic was through again in 7 hours.

A mine was found on the Vol-Maktau line and safely

4.

safely removed.

The Chief of the General Staff, India, wires that the 17th Infantry will replace the 13th Rajputs in B.E.A., and also that the 28th Infantry will be sent here in addition.

27th October. Steps have been taken to ascertain that the possibility of Germans from South-West Africa moving to German East Africa is being guarded against.

Lieut.-Cols. Hughes and van Deventer arrived last night from South Africa. They only spend a few days here and then return to South Africa.

They are optimistic of large reinforcements being ultimately sent here from South Africa.

In a patrol encounter, 5 miles from Maktou, one enemy askari was killed, one wounded and captured, and two .303 rifles were also taken.

The enemy's morale in the Kagera district is reported to be low.

28th October. A goods train was mined at mile 114 early this morning, and a Mallet engine badly damaged.

A bomb was found on the line at mile 236.

The G.O.C. left Karungu for Kisumu.

29th October. The representatives from South Africa agree that there need be no hesitation in accepting the services of mounted men for B.E.A., as these men would under no circumstances volunteer for service in Europe.

The Germans have been enabled to get into touch with Mafia. This will necessitate an even more careful watch being kept on all boats going to and from

from that island.

In the Eastern Lake Area the enemy are reported to be holding the line of the Mara River. They appear to anticipate an advance on our part.

In Uganda the enemy are under the impression that we have sent a force, 150 whites and 1,500 rifles, to reinforce the Belgians. They are reported to be reinforcing Kigali.

There are reported to be 5 machine guns as well as two 2.9" and one 2.4" gun in the Bukoba district.

30th October. The G.O.C. returned to Nairobi.

India has been asked to furnish a further half company of Sappers and Miners.

The South African delegates leave Mombasa for South Africa on November 5th.

31st October. In view of the fact that extensive reinforcements from South Africa may now be expected, the G.O.C. has decided that it would be inadvisable to change his G.S.O. (1); he has also asked India to supply a suitable senior officer as I. G. Communication.

1st November. A bomb was found and removed on the Uganda Railway at 4 a.m. this morning at mile 65. The enemy were discovered laying the bomb, and were dispersed, leaving kit and explosives.

The Naval Expedition for Lake Tanganyika arrived at Kabalo on 23rd October.

2nd November. A proposal was sent to the War Office regarding

some

some changes in the Administrative Staff necessitated by the reinforcements expected from South Africa.

The services of Mr Smallie, Deputy Locd. Supt., North Western Railway, India, have been asked for to reorganise the Uganda Railway workshops.

The Union Government of South Africa are now offering the following reinforcements :-

- 1 Infantry Brigade
- 1 battalion Cape Boys (1,000 strong)
- 1 Reserve Battalion
- 2 Mounted Regiments (660 strong each).

It is probable that 2 more Mounted Regiments may be sent.

3rd November. Lieut.-Cols. Hughes and van Derventer left Nairobi to-day en route for South Africa.

Union Government authorities hope to get all troops, animals, and transport to Mombasa by end of January.

Union authorities suggested, in a telegram, that permission should be obtained from the War Office that the Government of South Africa should be authorised to accede to all General Tigue's demands as far as material is available. This system is working well in regard to Nyasaland.

The Imperial Government has been asked to accede to the wish of the Union Government.

Many men from the South are coming here to enlist in our local Corps. As it is considered the higher local rates of pay may be the attraction, and the exodus may interfere with local recruiting in South Africa, the Union Government has been asked to make

public

public that no South African recruits will in future be enlisted in local corps, and that if men from South Africa wish to enlist locally they must do so in a regular unit, drawing Imperial rates of pay.

Tanganyika Naval Expedition arrived at Lukuga on October 28th; it is feared that some delay may now occur owing to the want of a suitable harbour.

4th November. Provisional arrangements are now being worked out in view of the reinforcements from South Africa.

A suggestion has been made that the Navy should raid some German East African coast towns as a preliminary to major operations.

These raids would probably have material effect on the attitude of the local native.

To a request that an officer of suitable rank to undertake the duties of I.G.C. should be sent from India, a reply was received that no such officer was available.

It is reported from a reliable source that Mbuyuni Camp (1 hour West of Mbuyuni Ridge) is held by 4 companies, each with 25 Europeans and 3 machine guns. The morale of the enemy here is reported to be bad. The total enemy's strength in the Taveta district is estimated at 8 companies with 24 machine guns. It is conjectured that the Mbuyuni garrison has lately been relieved by troops from the Coast.

In Uganda it is confirmed that our recent attempt on Kimwa was considered by the enemy to be a prelude to a general advance.

From Rhodesia it is reported that the enemy forces

forces on the line New Langenburg - Bismarckburg are estimated at about 400 Europeans, 2,000 askaris, some field guns, and many machine guns.

The enemy have 26 motor boats, capable of steaming from 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 knots, on Lake Tanganyika.

5th November. - All quiet, nothing to report.