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1916 15	
25 Nov	
Last previous Paper. 2128	

Summary East Africa

Forward Soc's War Diary for
period Nov. 6th to Nov 19th incl.

See on 2130

copy to Army Spm 274. (2130)

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

25th November 1915.

SECRET.

Sir,

See 2128 15/16

With reference to my Secret despatch of the 11th instant, I have the honour to forward, for your information, copy of a Résumé of the General Officer Commanding's War Diary from November 6th to 19th inclusive.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Alonway Bejtad.

GOVERNOR

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

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

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

In Dispatch ~~Number~~ of 25 Nov 1915

(COPY).

No. 215-0/163.

Command Headquarters, E.E.A. & U.,
Nairobi, 15th November 1915.

(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 6th to the 12th 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) H. DE C. O'GRADY, Major,
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 OF GENERAL STAFF, I. E. F. 'B'November 6th-12th, 1915.

November 6th. In the North of Portuguese East Africa the majority of the inhabitants, and especially the business men, are pro-German. Stores are run into German East Africa both by land and sea.

The Portuguese Expeditionary Force is anti-German, but inefficiency, due to sickness and other causes, has rendered it impotent.

Enemy agents are resuming activity in the neighbourhood of Kasigau and Pika Pika.

It is confirmed that there are only 8 companies in the Taveta district; no guns at Mbuyuni or Taveta.

A mine containing 30 pounds of dynamite was removed from mile 17 Voi-Taveta Railway.

From Uganda the enemy are still reported to be moving troops towards the Belgian Frontier in anticipation of a Belgian offensive.

The latest estimate of the enemy forces is :-

Europeans	2,132
Askaris	9,430
Levies and Recruits	2,280
Guns	57
Machine guns	75

Among the guns are included ten 4.1" and 6 modern field guns of unknown calibre.

November 7th. The Admiral asked if it would be advisable to apply to England for some seaplanes to assist in possible future operations against Daressalaam or Tanga. The General Officer Commanding replied that

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he considered that it would be advisable to have them in the event of their being required.

November 8th. Additional railway track, complete, and 15 loco. engines have been asked for from India by the Director of Railways in E.E.A.

One section of 27th mountain battery is proceeding to Uganda to assist in threatening the Kagera line with the object of making a diversion in favour of the Belgians.

November 9th. In order to co-operate with the Belgian advance on Ruanda, a strong demonstration will be carried out from the Kagera line in conjunction with a naval threat on Bukoba.

An unreliable report states that the Germans have given the Portuguese an ultimatum, which expires in about 15 days, as the Portuguese are prohibiting the passage of mail matter from German East Africa.

The 'small rains' have set in well, and there is promise of a good fall.

The enemy are reported to have strongly reinforced the Kivu-Russisi line in Ruanda. This may be a prelude to a second attempt on Luvungu.

The War Office have offered a Battery of 4" guns, for service in British East Africa, through South Africa. In reply to this it was pointed out that Howitzers would be much more useful and would be preferred. It was suggested that India was prepared to supply these Howitzers, if the personnel which was offered with the guns could be diverted to the latter.

The Union Government have offered an additional

mounted

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mounted regiment to be affiliated with the Infantry Brigade, and that offer has been gladly accepted. The proposal will therefore be put up to the War Office in due course.

November 10th. The 40th Pathans are to be sent here instead of the 23th Infantry.

Heavy rain has fallen, fairly generally. This will have filled the waterholes, thus making the raiding of the Uganda Railway an easier task for the enemy.

November 11th. The Telegraph Service in British East Africa and Uganda has offered to find a Section to take over the complete working and maintenance of the Military Field Telegraph lines in Uganda so as to free the regular military telegraphists for the active lines of advance. This offer has been accepted.

Definite information has been received from South Africa that the Union Government has decided to send a complete mounted brigade of four regiments as well as the additional mounted regiment referred to in the Résume for the 9th.

November 12th. It has been decided that the management of the Uganda Railway shall be temporarily vested in the Director of Railways, Sir William Johns, and definite arrangements have been made to this effect.

Marjoreni is now reported to be clear of the enemy.

One enemy company at least is still using black powder

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powder rifles.

The enemy patrol, which had been reported as being North of the Mara River, is now reported to be working South.

(COPY).

No. 215-0/164.

SECRET.

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

Nairobi, 22nd November 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 November
1915, inclusive, for the information of His Excellency
and the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

most
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) W. 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 WAR DIARY - GENERAL STAFF, I.E.F. 'E'

November 13th. A request has been received from the Belgians that they might be permitted to attach an officer of their Staff to the Officer Commanding the Kagera line. This was acceded to by General Tighe.

The appointment of Inspector Communications will be vested in Lieut. Col. Edwards (Inspector of Police, B.E.A. and Uganda). He will be relieved of the command of the Kagera line so as to enable him to take up his new appointment early in December.

India has notified inability to supply vessels for the conveyance of the South African reinforcements to Mombasa. The Admiral is therefore arranging to requisition ships for the purpose at the Cape.

November 14th. All quiet.

November 15th. It is reported that there is now a party of 70 enemy mounted men in the Taveta district.

In the Eastern Lake Area the enemy still have several small posts North of the Mara River, but they do not appear to be contemplating the offensive.

The following distribution of the enemy strength has been received,-

Tanganyika-Kivu Line.

325 Europeans, 600 askaris, 1,000 levies, and 8 machine guns.

Kivu-Mulera Front.

76 Europeans, 800 askaris, 200 levies, and 2 guns, with 4 machine guns.

Kagera River.

38 Europeans, 1,000 rifles, 3 guns, and 3 machine guns.

Bukoba and Karagwe Districts.

37 Europeans, 650 rifles, 1 gun, and 2 machine guns.

It is probable that the above figures are over-estimated.

In the Kigezi district the Belgians are said to have 30 Europeans, 1,030 rifles, 7 guns, and 4 machine guns.

The Naval Expedition on Lake Tanganyika is constructing a small port under the guns of Lukuga.

On the Nyassaland Border the Belgians are withdrawing their troops to the Congo.

November 16th. One hundred miles of telegraph line, complete, are being sent to the Belgians to enable them to link up Kibale with Butemuru.

The War Office are now sending the personnel from England for the Howitzer Battery which was promised by India many months ago in the event of such personnel being available.

November 17th. On the recommendation of the Provincial Commissioner, Voi, it has been decided that the Wakamba South of Mwatate shall be removed from that locality as they are considered untrustworthy.

The 129th Baluchis are being sent from Egypt to British East Africa in addition to the 40th Baluchis. This should mean a considerable addition to our fighting strength.

A reliable source confirms the continued passage of dhows from Portuguese East Africa to Mikindani.

The report of guns being located at Dar-es-salaam is confirmed.

All is reported quiet from the Coast. Several guns are reported to be at Tanga : this requires confirmation

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confirmation but is probably correct. Unconfirmed rumours of the construction of rail or tramways from Dar-es-salaam to Muhezi, and from Mombo to Tabera, continue to be reported.

Prisoners continue to confirm the fact that there are not more than 8 companies in the Taveta district.

All is quiet in the Eastern Lake Area.

The morale of the enemy on the Kagera Line is reported to have been disturbed lately owing to our demonstration at Kimwa.

Enemy are reported to be still requisitioning porters from Bukoba district for service at Moshi.

November 18th. Another attempt was made by the enemy to lay a bomb on the Uganda Railway at mile 160; the enemy were driven off by our patrols.

November 19th. A revised order of arrival of the South African reinforcements has been sent to General Smuts. To adequately protect the railway line an advance is necessary, and to admit of an advance more infantry are essential.

India is unable to provide another Sapper and Miner unit, which is unfortunate as their services would be invaluable.

The General Officer Commanding and Staff left for Kajiado.

On the 16th instant, at 7.30 p.m., unsuccessful attempts were made to blow up the Uganda Railway at 157/15 and 158/18.

On the 18th another attempt was made at 2 a.m.

at

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at mile 160/5. Our troops drove the enemy off.

At 1.30 a.m. to-day a successful attempt was made, resulting in the derailment of a portion of the train.

A strong hostile party made an attempt on the Vol-Maktau line at mile 36 last night. The enemy had one killed and several wounded.