

EAST AFR. PROT

2130

REC
PART 3 JAN 16

2130 ¹⁵/₁₆

~~Secret~~

Sw.
Delivered Sent

German East Africa

1918-15

7 Dec.

Forward E.O.C.'s War Diary

Last previous Paper.
W

for period Nov. 20th to Dec 3rd
incl.

Mr. B. Stanley
~~Mr. Lambert~~
Mr. Read
Mr. G. Rhodes

also 2127, 2128 & 2129

Copies to ADJG 3 pr. 1 Feb.
To Gen. Somerset 2 Feb.

There is a great deal of interesting
material here; I have examined
some of it. I see that we
are of opinion to get from the ships
in Mwanza Bay these war stores:
1,600 rifles
2 7/8 pr guns
Small arms & gun ammunition.

We now get these diaries from E.O.C.
As ADJG are working at "intelligence"
as to E. Africa, we had better send
the duplicates of these despatches to

Next subsequent Paper.

W.O.
2852

the D.I.D for Journal & Evidence
returned?

Gen 18/1/16

W.C.D. 19/1/16

Wz 19/1/16

H. J. R.

19/1/16

Pr. 19.1.16

Some of them is very ancient. How is it
that a deep dated 2700 only reaches us
with one dated 7th Dec? Inquiry should be
made.

14. 20. 1. 16

As. H. 20. 1

Am. 21. 1

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

SECRET.

7th December 1915.

Sir,

With reference to my Secret despatch of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, for your information, copy of a Résumé of the General Officer Commanding's War Diary from November 20th to December 3rd 1915 inclusive.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

H. Conway Beyield.

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.O., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

ENCLOSURE

In Despatch Secretary of 7 Decr 1915

(Copy).

No. 215-O/165.

SECRET.

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 Resumé
of my War Diary, from the 20th to the 26th 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 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.

22

RESUME OF GENERAL STAFF WAR DIARY

20th-26th November 1915.

November 20th. The enemy continue to show great activity in their efforts to interrupt the railway communication between Mombasa and Nairobi.

The services of three staff officers, including Lieut. Col. Hughes, have been asked for from South Africa.

The 17th Infantry are expected to arrive on or about the 12th December.

The appointments of Major Dobbs as A.Q.M.G., and Major Orr as D.A. & Q.M.G., have been sanctioned by the War Office.

The enemy made an attack, lasting 2 hours, on our old post at Kisigao, which was unoccupied by us. This attack on an unoccupied post shows that the enemy information is not very reliable.

November 21st. A new form of bomb has been found on the railway. It is ingeniously constructed so as to explode after a certain number of axles have passed over it. The idea of this is to disable the engine without wasting the explosion on the mine sweeping trucks in front.

The first consignment from South Africa of men and material is expected to arrive on November 29th.

November 22nd. The General Officer Commanding and G.S.O. (1) left for Mombasa and Voi.

A large force of askaris, with 50 Europeans, 3 small guns, and 3 machine guns, is reported at Mohezi.

The

The main body of the Tanganyika and Coast Force is probably kept at Pongwe and Mohezi.

Within the last three days 3 unsuccessful attempts have been made on the Uganda Railway: in 2 cases the bomb was found, and in the third the enemy was driven off.

On the 21st instant Mbuyuni West Ridge was found to be unoccupied by the enemy, and Mbuyuni East Ridge was only held by small posts. It is possible that the enemy is now only holding Mbuyuni as a patrol base from which railway raiding parties emanate.

No enemy have visited Rombo Camp during the past week.

In Uganda the enemy force at Mulera is believed to be 1 European, 8 askaris, and many levies.

November 23rd. The enemy did not attempt to occupy Kasigau, which they attacked on the 20th instant, and he retired slowly towards his own border before our party sent from Maungu to clear up the situation.

November 24th. On the Coast of German East Africa it is reported that the Germans are forcibly changing all silver money in possession of the Arabs and Swahilis into War notes.

Reports continue to come that the enemy askaris are tired of the war and are anxious to desert.

On the Victoria Nyanza our ships destroyed a dhow on the 1st.

Von Steumer, the German Commander in the Bukoba District, has been transferred to Tabora for Civil work.

3.

Information has been received from the War Office that Sir Horace Smith Dorrien will sail for East Africa in the 'Dufferin' at an early date to assume command of the Force there. The augmented Force will be made into 2 divisions, one of which will be commanded by Major General Tighe and the other by temporary Major General A. Bridges. An Infantry Brigade will also leave England as soon as the necessary ships are available.

A German traveller, named Forbenius, has arrived in Abyssinia. He is said to be in communication with Berlin, and is supposed to be trying to arrange attacks from Abyssinia on British East Africa and Somaliland.

25 additional machine guns are being sent from Gibraltar.

November 25th The policy of closing down the local bazaar shops, kept by Indians and situated in the vicinity of the Mombasa Area Defence Section of the Uganda Railway, has been approved, unless adequate security of good behaviour is forthcoming.

It has been strongly recommended that General Stewart should retain the command of the Longido Force after General Smith Dorrien has assumed command. Colonel Sheppard has been recommended for the appointment of Chief General Staff to General Smith Dorrien.

November 26th. In a flying accident which occurred yesterday at Naktau one of our machines was totally wrecked, the pilot was seriously injured.

The

The latest distribution and strength return of the troops in East Africa shows the following percentage fit - British 70%, Indian 76%, African 90%.

H.E. the Governor has sanctioned the proposal to embody the Mombasa Defence Force from the 1st December inclusive.

The War Office asked if additional armoured cars would be useful. A reply was sent that they would be most useful.

(Copy).

No. 215-0/168.

SECRET.

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

Nairobi, 4th December 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 27th November to the 3rd
December 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. & Uganda.

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, GENERAL STAFF, I.E.F. 'B'.

27th November - 3rd December 1915

November 27th. All quiet.

Notification has been received from the War Office that a Territorial Brigade will come here from England instead of the Reserve Battalion from South Africa.

General Smith Dorrien will settle the final distribution of Commands and Staffs after his arrival. The bulk of our artillery will be used on the Maktau line, and probably yet more guns will be sent from England for this purpose.

A cable was sent to the War Office giving particulars of the watering arrangements on the Voi-Maktau line; 35,000 gallons a day may be expected at the latter place.

November 28th. The Howitzers, referred to in the Resume of November 16th., are now being sent from India.

November 29th. In a successful patrol action at Mwele Ndogo, on the Coast, the enemy are reported to have lost 1 European and 3 askaris killed.

Native spies report a small enemy post at Lochoro, and a path cut thence to Taveta. The Salaita-Taveta Road has been broadened. The use of cement head cover in the Taveta trenches is confirmed. There is no garrison at Himo. Kaha (on the Usumbara Railway) is now connected with Taveta by a new road. There is also a much used road from Same Station to Kitogota via Butu. Taveta to Kaha is 20 miles, and to Same is 50 miles.

The difficulty of destroying the enemy railway, when required, is probably greatly increased by the redistribution which the above alterations will necessarily entail.

The enemy camp at Rombo shows no sign of recent occupation. It is probable that the enemy do not intend to reoccupy it.

November 30th. A cable was received from the War Office stating that General Smith Dorrien would find employment for Major General Stewart suitable to his rank and attainments.

The General Officer Commanding and Staff returned from Mombasa, he visited the Voi-Maktau line en route.

A question regarding the amount of reliance that could be placed on the 40th Pathans and on the 129th Baluchis was referred to the War Office. A reply was received stating that 17 men of the former unit had deserted to the enemy early in October, that the men were temperamentally unsuited for long spells of trench warfare, but that in the attack they might be expected to do splendidly.

December 1st. An offer of a 'Water' Unit from South Africa was accepted with thanks. This will be very useful, especially on the Longido line.

As the result of an interview between the G.O.C. and the Admiral it was decided that the latter should ask for :-

- (a) 4 aeroplane pilots for our planes at Maktau.
- (b) Sea planes in case we attack Tanga or Darassalaam.
- (c) an old battleship, such as the 'Goliath', to assist in the above.

The question of the defence of the Uganda Railway has, to a certain extent, been reconsidered. It is now based on an outer fringe of Intelligence Agents and native scouts working in conjunction with the regular troops, who are being utilised for the close defence of the actual line.

Only one successful bombing of the Railway has taken place during the last dangerous period of the moon.

December 2nd A cable was received from the War Office urging the advisability of the early extension of the water supply and the railway system beyond Maktau, towards Mbuguni. The use of the Decauville light railway plant, at Voi and Mombasa, was suggested for transport purposes.

The enemy garrison at Mwakijembi, on the Coast, is reported to consist of 10 Europeans and 100 askaris.

It is confirmed that the enemy have built either a tram or a railway from Korogwi to Morogoro, probably the former.

An unconfirmed report that the majority of the troops on the Coast have been moved to Moshi seems as yet unlikely.

On the 28th ultimo an enemy patrol, estimated at 50 mounted Europeans and 100 askaris, was met near Kasigau, and withdrew South-West. Two natives of India accompanied the enemy.

On the Mazima line, on the 30th ultimo, one of our patrols met an enemy party of 130 rifles near Rombo River Camp. After contact, both retired. The enemy

enemy are said to have lost 1 European and 3 askaris killed.

The enemy opposite the Kagera line seem now to be distributed over a number of small posts.

The enemy opposed to the Belgians are reported to have been reinforced by many Europeans and 500 askaris, these numbers are probably exaggerated.

December 3rd. All quiet.

C. O.
B. 734
D. 1

SC

Secret

Re O.S. 78. from C.O.
present his compliments
to the Director of the

Intelligence Division,

Adm., & forward

herewith for perusal

& return, copies of

some
~~of~~ despatches from

the Gov. of the East

enclosing abstracts of

the War Diary of C.O.

See copies for

the period from Sept

25th to Dec 15th, 1915

C. O.

1 Feb 1916

DRAFT

Spn

To

1. 0

Adm.

MINUTE

Mr. G. 29/1/16

Mr. D. 29/1/16

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. G. Eddles

Mr. H. Frost

Mr. J. Anderson

Mr. Steel-Maitland

Mr. Bonar Law

Recd 27 Oct

2137

Gov. Secy Nov 11

2128

Gov. Secy Nov 25

2129

Gov. Secy Dec 7

2130

2130 60

Li
I have etc to ad
nt. of your
despatches of Oct. 27th
Nov. 12th Nov. 25th
Dec 7th and

DRAFT

(212)
8
9
2130

East Secret

From Sir H. C. Balfour

MINUTE

- H. G. 29/1/16
- Mr. B. 29/1/16
- Mr. Head 29/1/16
- Mr.
- Sir G. F. Aldes
- Sir H. Aust.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Mr. Steel-Maitland.
- Mr. Bonar Law

inform her that I have
with much interest
read the War Diaries

forwarded to her

I should wish

some surprise that your

for the despatches

referred to above were

all received at the

Office on the same date
(the 13th of January)

and I should be
glad to be informed

(2076)

~~what is the reason~~

why the ~~despatch~~

dated October 27th

sent
was not ~~despatched~~

by an earlier mail I find

that on the 15th of Dec
despatches from you
arrived

(I have written
to the Regent
(or))

dated as late as the 10th

I have reached me on
the 15th of December.

- A B -