

Copy of article I of
General Act of Berlin, 1885

(Signed) H. W. JUST

E. AFRICA
GERMAN EAST AFRICA
40360

40360
SEP 15

Foreign

GERMAN EAST AFRICA

1915

20th August

Last previous Paper

The copy of despatch from Governor Marquis respecting conversation with Mr. J. Christensen on the subject of military obligations in German E.A.

~~Handwritten~~
L. G. Zwick

A further word has been sent to the
the U.S. was in G.O. and hope that the
the very principles of his intelligence has
longer been attended will be recalled P.O.
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In all further communications
on this subject, please quote

No. 119688 7915

Under Secretary of State
Foreign Office

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The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents
his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for A. L.

and by direction of the Secretary
of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned
paper

Foreign Office

40360 51 1915

Reference to previous correspondence

Letter from Foreign Office

Description of Inclosure

Name and Title

Subject

No. 40, August 14

(Similar letter sent to

{ D. J. O.
D. M. O.

COPY.

No. 90.

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119688)

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S CONSULATE GENERAL,

LOURINCO MARQUES,

4th August 1915.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith,
 a copy of a despatch I have addressed to the Naval
 Intelligence Officer at Cape Town, reporting a
 conversation I had with a Mr. Frederick Christensen, a
 subject who recently arrived at this port from
 German East Africa, on the subject of the military
 conditions obtaining in German East Africa.

A copy of the above mentioned despatch has also
 been forwarded to the Officer Commanding the Troops
 in British East Africa.

I have etc.,

(Signed) Errol MacDonell.

His Majesty's Principal

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,

Foreign Office,

London.

2/44.
HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONER,

LOURIGO MARQUEZ,

2nd August 1918.

I have the honour to inform you that I received a visit yesterday morning from a Mr. Frederick Christensen, a Swedish subject who recently arrived from German East Africa, and who was introduced to me by letter by the local Honorary Swedish Consular representative, Fr. G. Ritchie Kennedy.

Mr. Christensen stated that he arrived in German East Africa some three years ago and took up some 3,500 morgens on an estate named KIHAWA in BSONGORA district. At the outbreak of the present hostilities, however, the Germans commandeered some 300 of his native labourers and continued to do so until he was left without any hands. He was then invited to join them either in a civil or military capacity, but declining to do so, he left KIHAWA on foot for LINDI - a distance of some 300 miles - and reported himself to the Lieut-Governor, MINDO.

The Lieut-Governor, who received him kindly, could not, however, hold out any hopes of assisting him out of his difficulties, and could only offer him the choice of joining the German forces and leaving the country. Mr. Christensen chose the latter course, and was accordingly provided with a passport and a small native escort

which

... accompanied him to the ROYINA, and entered
Portuguese territory at PALMA.

Mr. Christensen estimated that the Germans possess
some 27,000 rifles and some five to six thousand European
troops. They have, he stated, commandeered all sporting
rifles belonging to civilians, in fact, one of the
volunteer corps, which is principally composed of planters
being entirely equipped with double barrel elephant guns.

At LINDI he noted some three or four hundred white
troops, and he was informed that the entrance to LINDI
had been closed.

He understood that there were some ten thousand troops
including natives and 20,000 carriers, at the present
head quarters of the army which is a small station a few
miles from Dar-es-Salaam.

Great activity had taken place in the opening out
of the country north of the Dar-es-Salaam railway by means
of roads capable of carrying motor traffic, attempts being
also made to lay a railway line to connect the Dar-es-Salaam
and Tabora railway with the Tanga-Syamba railway at a point
half way between Tabora and Dar-es-Salaam.

A report was current to the effect that a German
engineer at MUKINDWI had managed to construct some 10
guns out of Hanneeman tubes by shrinking one over
another, and that these guns were intended for firing
explosives charged with poisonous gas.

The various German officers he had conversations
with were inclined to the belief that we would occupy
German East Africa within a few months.

An Arab trader with whom he had considerable
business

business relations informed him that the British and Belgian prisoners who were interned, are well treated and are under the charge of a German Naval Reserve Officer, - a member of the German East Africa Line.

This Arab also informed him that a vessel had attempted to run the blockade with arms and ammunition but had been sunk by a British man of war. A quantity of ammunition had, however, been salvaged from her by the Germans.

In regard to the "Königsberg", the Arab stated that she had been destroyed and about 20 men killed and a very large number wounded, including the Commander, who was very severely wounded.

A report was current to the effect that one of the German boats on Lake Nyasa was heavily armed, and that she had been supplied with one or more guns from the "Königsberg".

Mr. Christensen intends returning to Sweden and will probably proceed there via Cape Town. He has offered to place himself at the disposal of our Naval Authorities in the event of any information he may possess being of use to the British Government.

The country South of Lake Nyasa, he considers, would be found very difficult for military operations. There are no roads; the natives untrustworthy; and the district infested with lions.

He stated, finally, that there was a great scarcity of European food stuffs throughout the country, and luxuries, including tobacco, were practically non-existent.

Mr. Christensen asked me to place on record his ownership of the KINAVA plantation in order that the same

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man be recognized when we occupy the country.

In submitting the above report I would state that while I have no reason to doubt its accuracy, the same should be taken on its face value, as although my informant appeared to me to be trustworthy I have never met nor heard of him before nor is he at the moment in possession of any papers as to his nationality other than the passport issued to him by the German authorities in German East Africa.

I have etc.,

(signed) Errol MacDonell.

His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General