

East Africa Post  
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28 DEC 1914

War office  
1914  
Dec 27<sup>th</sup>  
Last previous Paper  
WT

German East Africa.

Telegraphic correspondence as to  
operations.

in Bohemian for J. F. Fisher  
the Post

As regards the wounding of  
H. Mathison in the Voi  
district there is no person  
of such a name in the K.A.R.  
according to the list recently sent  
home and I suspect that  
the officer meant is H. F. L.  
Mathison Lieutenant Adjutant of  
4th Battalion K.A.R. England  
it is up to you to  
whatever way is thought  
necessary.

P. H. G.

Last previous Paper

28/12/14  
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28/12/14



The Director of Military Operations presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State  
*Colonial Office*  
 and begs to forward for his information a copy of *telegrams*  
 which have been received dealing with  
 operations in *East Africa*

all  
 for  
 D.M.O.

*Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> 1914*

From Senior Naval Officer, H.M.S. "Fox," Zanzibar, to Admiralty.

No. 106.]

23rd December, 1914, 12.10 a.m.

General Officer Commanding has made special application for experienced officer in place of present young retired Lieutenant, R.N., to command all armed vessels, and possibly to organise naval operations at Victoria Nyamua.

No suitable officer can be spared from H.M.S. ships here. General Officer Commanding also urgently requests loan of three 6 pr. guns for attack on craft. Propose to send him two from "Fox."

Addressed to Commander-in-Chief, East Indies. Telegram has been repeated to Admiralty and Commander-in-Chief, Cape.

From Senior Naval Officer, H.M.S. "Fox," Zanzibar, to Admiralty.

No. 107.]

24th December, 1914, 1.5 p.m.

Please add to my telegram No. 106 beginning "Kinfauns' reports in carrying out a plan to destroy dhows at Kilwa Kivya she was opposed by gun fire of small field gun on shore, whereupon she destroyed Government House and caused damage to town."

Addressed to Commander-in-Chief, East Indies. Telegram has been repeated to Commander-in-Chief, Cape, and to Admiralty.

From Senior Naval Officer, H.M.S. "Fox," Zanzibar, to Admiralty.

No. 107.]

24th December, 1914, 11.15 p.m.

Following report on proceedings since "Fox" 20th December, temporarily relieved "Chatham" in charge of "Königsberg" operations off Rufiji Delta submitted. 21st December, "Kinfauns Castle" and "Duplex" searched coast to the southward shelling and killing or badly wounding at least six men in khaki near Kivasi Mouth. Kinfauns also dispersed parties of men south of Ras Cape. Dima, destroyed look-out station and signal staff in vicinity.

22nd December. "Kinfauns" reports having heard faintly 3-2 (sic) explosions at intervals of one minute in direction of sunken collier, "Newbridge," so far as could be judged.

23rd December. Reconnaissance commenced decided on in consultation with "Chatham" before proceeding to Mikuru Simu, 20th December, carried out (in) daylight by "Duplex" Adjutant, Lieutenant-Commander Wilkinson. "Kinfauns" in charge carried out reconnaissance to my entire satisfaction. Same time "Fox" closed entrance to cover purpose. 6 a.m., enemy opened fire on the two vessels who briskly returned same. They were clearly protecting both sides of entrance well as Ssuninga Island, still held in some strength. Approximately five machine guns and at least one pom-pom gun, but nothing heavier, being accounted (sic). Volume of rifle fire not great. Both vessels, especially "Duplex," when turning came under very heavy fire at close range. "Duplex" to my regret sustained two casualties very dangerously wounded; since died. Private Robert A. Harbron, Royal Marine Light Infantry, Plymouth, 1513. "Fox" seriously wounded Frank Rook, stoker, late "Pegasus," O.N. 284369. Conduct of all concerted was as usual. Light-Commander Wilkinson reported "Newbridge" was upright, submerged to bulwark intact and, so far as could be judged, exact position in which she is reported to have sunk; stern about 50 yards from Kionboni River bank. Small pulling boats (corrupt group) moored near her on island. In trees and thick scrub not a man nor gun were seen, but two or three enemy's guns silenced, at any rate temporarily, before "Duplex" adjutant left scene of operations about 6.30 a.m. In afternoon "Kinfauns" was sent to destroy dhows on the beach at Kilwa Kivya (20

...miles south of Mafia Islands whence after dark proceeds Zanzibar for water and to ... wounded to hospital. Reference Chatham's suggestion as to occupation of Mafia Island with a view to reducing still further "Germans" remaining ... of supplies about that I entirely concur as does also General Officer commanding with whom Captain of "Chatham" is now consulting at Mombasa regarding ... troops required transport arrangements, &c.

Addressed to Commander-in-Chief, East Indies. Repeated Commander-in-Chief, Cape Admiralty. Chatham.

*From General Wainwright to War Office.*

(No. 1128)

24th December, 1914

I have noted your telegram No. 251 of 24th December. Modification of No. 87, S will be sent soon. I have virtually settled the question of cooperation with the Navy in the attack on Mafia Island and an officer of my staff will shortly accompany Chatham for a combined naval and military reconnaissance. An actual capture of the island is reported from Voi district on 20th December: 2 German and 6 black soldiers were killed or wounded out of 17. Lieutenant Musherson, King's African Rifles was wounded but is progressing well. General Tighe has cleared the Uluva Valley, encountering only slight opposition. The rest of the frontier is quiet.

*From Admiralty to Commander-in-Chief, East Indies.*

(No. 333)

24th December, 1914, 7 pm.

It is desired to obtain 4 small vessels which would carry 3-pr. guns to blockade the coast of German East Africa. Report if any suitable small steamers, tugs or trawlers can be obtained in South African ports.

*From Commander-in-Chief, Cape Simonstown, to Admiralty.*

(No. 82)

25th December, 1914, 8.25 pm.

Your telegram No. 25. Four steved whalers can be obtained, and will be suitable vessels for purpose required.