

EAST AFR. PROT.

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12123

In Belfield Copy

1914

Operations agst Mardan

10 inch

Confirms tel. comes resp. progress of operations

Last previous Paper.

12024

Mr G. Fisher

Send copy (when in print) to 70,

S.O., & W.O. for ref 1277?

H. J. R.

3/27/14

At Home  
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Next subsequent Paper.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE, 124  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

March 10th 1914.

~~2123~~  
2123

INTED FOR USE OF  
AFRICAN

Confidential No. 48

Sir,

In continuation of my Confidential despatch No. 30 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to confirm the following telegrams sent since the date of the despatch above quoted, which read as follows:-

*Gov 6443*

No. 49 of the 21st ultimo.

*Gov 6443*  
*Gov 6060*

"February 21st. Your cypher telegram February 17th. Have received following three telegrams from Granus. They were in Government Code and all more or less mutilated. Following is best sense we can make of them. First telegram begins: 'February 4th. Arrived yesterday, situation as follows at Sereniti: 280 rank and file includes all camel corps. At Garrebehare 205 rank and file but Garrebehare has no transport whatsoever. Rer Tuini and Hassan are holding Farnwen Dur right across the road of advance to Garrebehare and anticipate severe fight to get through, we may not be able to force way through. Owing to transport being concentrated at Sereniti, Garrebehare cannot cooperate. If no action taken this dry season grave danger that other friendly tribes will join with Marenan which available information shows improbable at present,

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THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

\* No. 9478  
+ No. 6742  
# No. 6060

(2)

so have decided to move at once. In view of possibilities consider it necessary to despatch immediately to Yonte company of 1st Battalion, King's African Rifles, with three months supply with 500 per rifle, women and children remaining at Nairobi. Company 1st King's African Rifles, Zanzibar, hold themselves in readiness. Troops at Garrebenare have rations to middle of May, 300 rounds per rifle, for maxia guns 10,000 rounds per gun and will entrench position with water supply easily accessible. Civil authorities should be asked to make all arrangements for move of troops from Yonte either by camel or mules in case of necessity, very necessary another Medical Officer be despatched to Serenli without delay, would like Russell. Bentinck doing as well as can be expected but still cause for anxiety. Would ease strain if civil authorities could arrange transport of Mfudu stores and supplies Salagi if possible Serenli. In making contract steamers must remember there will be heavy normal relief of troops this year. Please expedite appointment Salutri and purchase of riding camels from Sudan. It is essential that immediate steps should be taken to obtain mules suitable for riding from Abyssinia in accordance with Thesiger's and Hoskins suggestion should be taken without delay. Graham'. First telegram ends. Second telegram begins: 'Tenth. All reports which are extraordinarily unanimous tend to prove numbers, armament, spirit of enemy's forces hopelessly underestimated. Originally I had arranged for Aulinan and men to round up. These are now very doubtful and without their certain assistance to move on our part would have practically no

(3)

no chance of succeeding and run grave risk of disaster. Still an opinion that little likelihood of neighbouring tribes joining with Marahan before break rainy season about March 15th. Sanction given for action arrived too late in order to enable original scheme to occupy Warr being carried out and isolation of Garrebenare has reduced my all available forces by 150. After considering fully all contingencies and with full appreciation of risk caused by delay do not feel justified in moving Serendi only with the 200 men encumbered by 100 baggage camels. All three companies 4th King's African Rifles and one company 1st King's African Rifles from Nairobi are absolutely necessary and absolutely loyal local Somalis employment illaloes indispensable. These should be if possible well mounted on mules suitable for riding or ponies, and suggest 100 from Berbera. All reinforcements must be supplied with ammunition. 303. rations will be supplied till river Juba can be relied on to continue supply about June 15th. Additional supplies should be sent to Gobwen reinforcements should purchase their own camels failing this it is suggested borrowing from India. All water tanks now at Nairobi should accompany reinforcements. Proper medical arrangements vital and enlisted porters with ambulance should be sent. Reinforcements must arrive at Serendi as soon as possible. Delay in all probability will make Aulinan join with enemy's forces as soon as rainy season commences and they are not compelled to water livestock on river and also increase possibilities of Mahomed Zubeir joining in as I understand.

(4)

understand they have amicably settled differences with Abd Wak. In anticipation of sanction Staff Officer, Gobwen, has been directed to commence purchase baggage camels. All units must bring maxim gun porters and twelve in addition required for maxim gun here. Consider necessary Staff Officer, Gobwen, should be provided with Government telegraph code book. Three Army Service Corps Officers from England or from India should be obtained. Graham'. Second telegram ends. Third telegram begins: 'Am leaving Serenli today, February 17th, with some 230 rank and file, anticipate fight on February 19th. Secured some 73 Anlinah friendships. Bringing them to our side should produce good effect on other sections throughout Province and ease situation on line of communication. Graham'. Ends. Despatch leaves by today's mail."

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No. 54 of the 25rd ultimo.

"Indian Government have explained that camel transport is organised in fully equipped troops of 120 camels each. After consulting Ward have asked that three complete troops be sent."

No. 59 of the 26th ultimo. †

"Returned Nairobi this morning. Have immediately and carefully perused all correspondence relating to Marehan expedition which has taken place since my departure for Kisumu. I am satisfied that every effort has been made to keep you fully and punctually informed as to developments. I could have done no more had I been here. Allowance must be made for distance between Headquarters and seat of operations for consequent delay in respect of communications

\* No 6926  
+ No 7353

(5)

communications and mutilation of telegraphic reports. Have now held conference, present Chief Secretary, Colonel Ward, Captain of "Pegasus", Provincial Commissioner, Jubaland, Officer Commanding Troops, Nairobi. After hearing them I am satisfied that the action which has been taken is correct and that that which is proposed is desirable. "Pegasus" leaves for Kismayu Sunday with units supplementary to reinforcements already despatched and will remain on Tana coast to assist in communications by wireless. Following telegram from Serenli received today:- begins. 'February 2nd. Following received from Colonel Graham dated February 20th. "Arrived at Farnwen yesterday without opposition. Arrangements had been made for our Somali section armed syces and Aulihan illaloes to leave camp by night with a view to rounding up Tulha stock. Small skirmish between illaloes and Tulha, enemy's casualties 5 killed, our casualties illaloes killed and wounded 2. Result though disappointing has, I consider, definitely committed Aulihan to our side. Proceeding to Gerbenare via Farnwen Dur and Jennadin February 21st. Garrebenare report signallers ambuscaded resulting in killed and wounded two. Has made reconnaissance as far as Abundart but saw nothing". Officer Commanding Serenli. Eps. We are of opinion that position probably less serious than anticipated from previous reports. On recommendation Colonel Ward I am telegraphing Berbera to supply 30 ponies if possible for use of illaloes."

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No. 66 of the 5th instant

"Ward reports from Kismayu that he has received

\* No 8292

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a telegram written on February 24th by Graham via Lugh which would appear to indicate that Graham has reached Garrebehare. Indian camel transport due Kislayu March 16th.

No. 71 of the 7th instant

Following received from Troops, Serenli. Begins March 4th. In continuation of my despatch February 22nd. On February 22nd, force has captured some 300 stock belonging to Rer Tuina taken by surprise, no fighting. Arrived at Garrebehare February 23rd, marched to Humbali February 25th, left for Makalla February 26th. Our move took by surprise enemy some 500 sheep and goats. Half force returned to Humbali, remainder holding wells at Makalla. Mild night attack number unknown, presumably Ali Dara and Rer Hassan, enemy's casualties 3 killed, Fire discipline of troops good, interviewed Faran Ogas chiefs February 28th, declare allegiance to Government supplying illalces, Graham inclined to believe them. Force arrived at Lollieshid March 2nd, propose moving to Lugh where plenty of stock watering in Juba. Health of troops good. Commanding, Serenli. Ends.

No. 75 of the 9th instant.

"My telegram March 7th. Graham arrived at Lugh March 6th. No further news."

2. I have also the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the following telegrams from you:-

"February 20th. Your telegram February 19th. Send Graham's telegrams in code."

"February 21st. Keep Thesiger informed as far as possible of situation with a view to obviating risks".

\* No 8620 ≠ Nos 6461, 6387 and 6743  
 † No. 8904

for 8904

for 6461

for 6387

(7)

Feb 6/43

"February 24th. Your telegram February 21st, No. 49 and previous telegrams. Camel corps company cannot be obtained from Sudan. Riding camels from India probably too delicate for Jubaland. It is observed that in telegram of February 4th Graham only asks for riding camels from Sudan. Sirdar states that has arranged with Government of East Africa Protectorate to send 100 to Moyale and could purchase more if immediate notice given to him if those will meet requirements. You should communicate with Sirdar at once".

3. Arrangements have already been completed for the despatch of the three troops of camel transport from India and these are due to arrive at Kismayu on the 15th instant.

4. Colonel Ward arrived at Kismayu on the 3rd instant and proceeded at once to Yonte to join the reinforcements from the 1st and 4th Battalions.

5. I have not yet received definite information as to the date of the Inspector General, King's African Rifles' return to Nairobi, but he is expected at the end of this month. Copies of all correspondence have been sent to meet him on the road so that he will be in a position to discuss the matter as soon as he arrives.

etc  
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

H. Conway Brevet

GOVERNOR.