

East Afr. Post.  
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War Office  
1915  
16 Feb.  
Last previous Paper  
no. 7814 S

German East Africa

Telegraphic correspondence  
as to operations

~~inc. Berlin~~  
~~inc. Road~~ Gen. J. Anderson

Note telegrams as to proposed  
"Königsberg" operations, and  
as to strength and disposition  
of the enemy.

Put by

There are  
separate  
papers about  
this

Put by?  
~~Have been~~ Gen 17/2/15  
I have mentioned the matter of Capt. R.  
to you - W.O. have given themselves some  
thought in a matter which concerns us.

17.2.15

U. 17.2.15  
H. 2. 17/2/15

Subsequent Paper  
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J  
18.2.15

H 18.2.15



16/2/15

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The Director of Military Operations presents his compliments to *Under Secretary of State for the Colonies*

and begs to forward for his information a copy of *telegrams*

which have been received dealing with  
operations in *East Africa and replies sent.*

*From Viceroy to India Office.*

(No. H. 3219.)

8th February, 1915.

Your No. 1631, 6th February. Present commandant 130th Baluchis, Lieut.-Colonel C. U. Price, same regiment. This was communicated in our No. H. 3076, 28th January.

*From Major General Wapshare to War Office.*

(No. 107/82.)

9th February, 1915.

Lieut.-Colonel C. A. Johnstone performs duties of Deputy Director of Medical Services. He is on the selected list of Indian Medical Service colonels. It would be great assistance in the smooth working and performance of duties, which are exceptional, if he can be given temporary rank of colonel, strongly recommended.

Repeated to Chief of the General Staff, India.

*From Governor of the East Africa Protectorate to Colonial Office.*

(No. 216.)

9th February, 1915.

Following received from Cox, Corporation—For information of the Belgian Government and the British East Africa Corporation, Limited, London, Webster left Masindi on 6th February for Mahagi to receive treasure according to instructions. If necessary, please inform Braine that there is no connection between Congo and Uganda by telegraph.

*From Major General Wapshare, Nairobi, to War Office.*

(No. S. 216.)

9th February, 1915, 4.10 p.m.

I have successfully withdrawn the Unba force, and I am carrying out a redistribution of my forces on the principle laid down in your telegram No. 2842. Malleson has arrived at the Congo, and when I hear from him, which I expect shortly, I will formulate and report plans of co-operation; the plans will probably take the form of an attack on Muanza about the middle of March.

I should be glad to have some details of the Rhodesian Contingent as to their organization, whether they have Maxims, what arms you are sending for them, and whether they are bringing with them any mule transport. If it can possibly be provided mule transport is very desirable.

Our Masai are working well, and the German Masai are in sympathy with us. A patrol from Longido killed two Germans and succeeded in getting valuable information.

*From Governor of the East Africa Protectorate to Colonial Office.*

(No. 214.)

9th February, 1915.

Your cipher telegram of 30th January—Ordnance stores to the Belgian Congo. In the opinion of the General Officer Commanding, a military escort is necessary from Kampala to Fort Portal, strength dependent on general situation at the time.

Governor of Uganda and I concur in this opinion. Arrangements are being made accordingly.

From Governor of the East Africa Protectorate to Colonial Office.

9th February, 1915.

(No. 215.) Your cipher telegram of 4th February. It is suggested that Colonel Molitor should be requested to proceed via Mombasa and Uganda to Belgian Congo to enable General Wapshare to confer with him.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.

(No. S. 217.) 10th February 1915, 12 noon.

A detailed summary of the situation as it then appeared to me was contained in my secret despatch No. S. 158 of 13th January. As this was, of course, written some time before I received your telegrams No. 2810 and No. 2842, it must be modified in accordance with my telegram No. S. 190 of 20th January.

Repeated to Chief of General Staff, India.

From War Office to Major-General Wapshare

(No. 3041, cipher. M.O. 156.) 11th February, 1915, 12.40 p.m.

Your No. S. 216 of 9th February. The Rhodesian Contingent is about 400 strong and is organised as an Infantry battalion of 4 companies with paymaster and medical officer and machine gun section, but without transport as at present arranged. We are sending out for the Contingent 500 long 303 rifles sighted for Mark 6, with bayonets, 2 Maxims with tripods for Mark 6, and 580,000 rounds small-arm ammunition Mark 6. 476 sets Infantry Web equipment, 500 helmets, 500 greatcoats, 1,000 pairs boots and other stores. The whole consignment may be expected to reach Kilindini by Clau Line steamer about the end of March. The Contingent, however, will bring with them from Rhodesia, rifles, bayonets and 160 rounds ammunition per man. These are to be returned immediately on the arrival of arms despatched from England.

With reference to the last paragraph of your telegram, we shall be glad to know the latest reliable information you have in regard to hostile forces.

From War Office to Major-General Wapshare.

(No. 3050, cipher. M.O. 167.) 11th February, 1915, 8.25 p.m.

Admiralty can make immediate provision of two battalions of Marines, each 1,000 strong, and six 12-pr. guns for the purpose of cutting out the "Königsberg". If necessary, these could be strengthened by naval contingents from the ships. Senior Naval Officer has been asked by the Admiralty if this force would suffice for the operation, and how long it would take when once it had been begun. The actual direction of operations on the spot would be entrusted to you, and you should report on the project. It is most important to capture the "Königsberg" and her crew and to liberate the valuable cruiser "Weymouth" for service elsewhere. Marines can sail on 17th February, and would arrive at Mombasa about the middle of March. You should confer with the Senior Naval Officer and report here at the earliest possible date.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.

(No. S. 220.) 12th February, 1915, 11.20 a.m.

Your No. 3050, M.O. 176, of 12th February. The enemy's strength in the Tanga-Moshi area is as detailed in my No. S. 200 of 30th January, plus 25 Maxims and 16 guns. The threat on Tanga having been removed by my evacuation of the Uмба, the enemy has again concentrated on Moshi. The disposition of hostile forces is as follows:—At Ruanda, 1,200, mostly levies, with 10 Maxims and 6 guns; at Bukoba, 44 whites, 350 regular black troops and 500 levies, with 4 Maxims and 3 guns; at Muanza, 100 whites, 100 regular black troops and 500 levies, with 2 Maxims and 5 guns; in the neighbourhood of Sherati, 30 whites, 100 regular black troops and 150 levies, with 1 Maxim and 1 gun. The strength on the central railway from Dar-es-Salaam to Tabora has not yet been ascertained.

I hope you have received my No. S. 215 of 6th February, re proposed railway from Voi to Maktau. The rain begins soon after 15th March, when, except in the case of Lake Victoria, active operations will be difficult, but it will not prevent the construction of a railway, and this, in my opinion, would be the best way to utilize the rainy months till July.

Repeated to Chief of the General Staff, India.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.

(No. 222.) 12th February, 1915, 9.30 p.m.

Your No. 3050, cipher, of 12th February. The Senior Naval Officer has gone to Mafia and Butigi. I have asked him to return at once to Mombasa, where I shall meet him. I will then send you a report as soon as possible by telegraph.

From War Office to Major-General Wapshare, Nairobi.

(No. M.O. 169.) 13th February, 1915.

Reference our Nos. 1153 and 1463 and your No. 193 S. of 26th January. Please inform us if it is necessary Captain Rice should return to British East Africa as arranged. Admiralty are anxious to retain him permanently at Seychelles. We would enquire in this on assurance from you that work in East Africa could be satisfactorily completed without him. Failing such assurance present arrangement will hold good.

From War Office to Major-General Wapshare, Nairobi.

(No. 3089, cipher. M.O. 1 (A). No. 170.) 13th February, 1915, 12.40 p.m.

Your No. S. 215. It is not considered here that any railway material will be needed by you for Tanga. You should disembark material on "Rheinfels" and release vessel, using that material on proposed railway together with any other brought from India by Force B. In these circumstances, after consulting with Governor as to railway material, please submit revised estimate indicating cost of construction, additional personnel required, and cost and description of additional material required.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.

(No. S. 223.) 13th February, 1915, 3.35 p.m.

Continuing my telegram No. S. 222 of 12th February. The Senior Naval Officer returns on 17th February to Mombasa. I will meet him there, and report at once.

*From General Officer Commanding, Ceylon, to War Office.*

(No. 2137, cipher.)

14th February, 1915, 2.15 p.m.

With reference to your Nos. 2992 and 3023, ciphers. On 12th February 14 machine guns and tripod mountings with spare parts and 20,000 rounds of Mark VI ammunition per gun were shipped on s.s. "Demian," sailing for Aden; 4 guns, with equipment, are addressed to Chinde and the remaining 10, with equipment, to Mombasa. The 240,000 rounds of ammunition expected from Hong Kong and the 6 tripods expected from Singapore did not arrive on s.s. "Nubia." Instructions are awaited.

Aden has been informed.

*From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.*

(No. S. 224.)

15th February, 1915, 2.50 p.m.

Please inform me if you have the I.A.M. cipher. If you have, may I use it if necessary? I am often away from headquarters, and then difficulties are apt to arise as we have only one copy of India Office CC cipher available.

*From War Office to Major-General Wapshare, Nairobi.*

(No. M.O. 172.)

15th February, 1915.

Your No. S. 224, 15th February. When necessary you can use I.A.M. cipher. It is, however, liable to mutilation in transmission. Please, therefore, use, whenever possible, India Office cipher.

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