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K.O

1915
11 March

Last previous Paper.
20/3/15
11/4/15

German East Africa
Operations - Telegraphic correspondence.

Put by ✓

W. B. ... *Head* *Mr. J. Fiddes*

W.K. regard to the remark in the 'Belgian appreciation' that the Belgians have a very long frontier to defend as the Germans and their have command of Lake Kivu and Tanganyika, we have today received through F.D. a request from the Belgian Govt for the supply of 2 guns for their new steamer and 2 hydroplanes, as the Belgians are anxious to cripple the German steamers which would facilitate the landing of German troops at all points of Belgian coast line.

Next subsequent Paper.
W.O
11/4/15

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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*

Recd.
for DMO

March 11th 1915

SECRET

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From War Office to Commander-in-Chief, India.

(No. M.O. 188.)

5th March, 1915.

Your No. S. 4570. Please supply.

From Base Commandant, Killindini, to War Office.

(No. 25/52.)

5th March, 1915, 10.49 a.m.

Transport "Sofala" arrived 5th March from Karachi and Bombay.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.

(No. 218/0/19.)

6th March, 1915, 3 p.m.

The following telegram has been received by me from General Henry, Commanding the troops in the Belgian Congo, through General Malleson:

"The Belgian troops require ammunition. We have 250 rounds per rifle. We have 1,000 Mauser and 4,000 Martini rifles. We should have 1,000 rounds per rifle, as the English have, and this average should be maintained, sending through Mombasa. Ammunition for the Belgian Congo should be expedited."

Please transmit this to the Belgian Government

From Governor of East Africa Protectorate to Secretary of State for Colonies

(No. 230)

6th March, 1915, 7.50 p.m.

I am requested by the General Officer Commanding to enquire whether the War Office has been placed in possession of the contents of Stewart's despatch of 31st October, which was enclosed in my secret despatch of 7th November

No action has been taken on recommendations made regarding certain officers and he is anxious to know the reason.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.

(No. S. 249)

7th March 1915, 5.45 p.m.

The following is a Belgian appreciation of the situation which I have just received through Malleson:—

"The Belgians have a very long frontier to defend, as the Germans have command of the Lakes Kiou and Tanganyika, but as soon as their reinforcements and supplies of ammunition arrive they can probably spare 2,000 men for offensive. The best lines for a Belgian offensive are from the north of Lake Kiou and especially from Mulera down the valley of the Kagera River towards Kigali. These lines of invasion are the furthest distant from the central German railway and run through rich country. Inasmuch as it would give the Germans the advantage of the interior lines, isolated action is opposed by General Henry who thinks that when offensive is taken it should be a general one from

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Congo to the sea with co-operation if possible from Nyassaland and Rhodesia, and that meantime we should take measures to get command of Lake Victoria."

2. With reference to the above, the only definite offer of co-operation that I can make now is an attack on Muanza simultaneously with the Belgian attack on Kigali, probably in April. Referring to my telegram No. S. 240 of the 26th February, I think that if the Belgians are prepared to co-operate in this manner, the combined action would have excellent effect. It would give them a footing in Ruanda, secure to us the command of the lake, and relieve pressure against Uganda. It has been proved, however, by recent events that some of my troops, especially Rampurs and Kapurthala, are even more useless than I thought and are positively a source of danger; they are not fit even for escort duty on the lines of communication, and I most strongly urge that they be replaced by a good Regular regiment. Failing this, I can only find sufficient troops to take Muanza by withdrawal from Longida to Bissil, and as this would surrender an important advance base on one of our eventual lines of invasion I am very adverse to doing it.

3. As regards the general offensive mentioned by General Henry. I conclude from the fact that the construction of the Voi-Maktau railway has been sanctioned that it is the intention of the Imperial Government to carry through the invasion of German East Africa. But this is an insufficient promise on which to found definite proposals to the Belgians. As pointed out in my telegram No. 215 of 6th February, this railway will not be ready till end of July; for proposals after that date see paragraphs 4 to 6 of my No. 229 of 20th February. Until the railway is ready no general offensive is possible.

4. Lieut.-Colonel Ward, who leaves here in a week's time, is taking with him a full appreciation giving details.

5. I am naturally anxious to give Belgians, first, definite suggestions for combined action against Ruanda and on Lake Victoria in April; and secondly, indications as to future action when the railway to Maktau is completed in July or August.

Repeated to Chief of General Staff, India.

From Commander-in-Chief, Cape, Zanzibar, to Admiralty.

(No. 161.)

7th March, 1915, 3.55 p.m.

Arrived at Mafia.

From High Commissioner for South Africa to Secretary of State for Colonies.

8th March, 1915, 3.40 p.m.

Second Rhodesia contingent will embark to-morrow at Beira on steamer "Umzimbi." Presume military authorities at Mombasa will be notified by War Office.

From Secretary of State for Colonies to Governor of East African Protectorate.

8th March, 1915, 2.10 p.m.

Your telegram of 19th February, No. 224. Can you assure me that 30,000l., in addition to previous 120,000l., has already in fact been advanced by Protectorate for expenditure on troops from India alone.

Your telegram of 5th March, No. 228. In view of later bill drawn on Crown Agents, discrepancy not entirely accounted for by expected loan advance.

With regard to allocation of military expenditure, Treasury consider it essential that pending definite division a provisional allocation of common charges should be agreed so that Protectorate will not in future advance funds for services chargeable to War Office, and War Office will not make payments for troops which are a charge on Protectorate funds. You should consult with General Officer Commanding and arrive at working arrangement. Present system by which Protectorate bears charges which cannot be definitely allocated, should be discontinued.

From War Office to General Officer Commanding, Ceylon.

(No. 3453, cipher. A. 3.)

8th March, 1915, 4.45 p.m.

With reference to your No. 2137, cipher. You are to ship to Mombasa 8 machine guns complete with spare parts, 2 tripod mountings and 160,000 rounds, Mark VI., small-arm ammunition. Notify the General Officer Commanding, East Africa, and inform him that 6 tripod mountings will be sent from England. These stores are to be shipped in P. and O. "Egypt," due to leave Columbo, 10th March, reaching Aden on the 18th, there to be off-loaded and reshipped into the "Glen Mennes," which is due at Aden on 26th March.

Inform General Officer Commanding, Aden.

From Senior Naval Officer, Zanzibar, to Admiralty.

(No. 162.)

9th March, 1915, 10.40 a.m.

I had an interview with Captain of "Weymouth" yesterday. Have come here to get in communication generally. I am proceeding to Mombasa this evening for the same purpose and for "Goliath" to coal, then returning to Mafia.