

EAST AFR. PROT

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 REC
 4 OCT 15

377

War Office
 1915
 3 Oct.
 Last previous Paper

German East Africa
 Telegraphic correspondence
 to Operations

~~Mr. B...~~
~~Mr. ...~~
~~Mr. ...~~

Mr. Fisher

Let. of 21st of 15. We have separate
 correspondence since (a) the diversion of
 the 5 13/16 batteries from S. Africa
 to East Africa (instead of to Europe) (b)
 the departure of the 4000 battery section
 from S. Africa to ...
 proposed departure to S. Africa of motor
 transport from S. Africa. We had not
 heard that 1000 Portuguese mules
 with 300 000 rounds of ammunition were
 being sent to ... from Egypt.

Next subsequent Paper
 No. 45753

The telegrams marked X are curious.
 It appears that the War Office are
 ...

in the dark as to the proposed
departure of a South African brigade
to East Africa. As it now appears
to be now beyond doubt that a
brigade will be sent, it seems
understand train policy and it must
be very discouraging for General Rife.

Note as to "universal service" in
E.A.F. No 500 evidently expects
to get a considerable addition of men.

Part 1
4.10.15
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4.10.15

Seen AS 12.6.10.

SECRET.

45.830

378

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 1122/3)

10th September 1915. 5 p.m.

Your telegram 9th September, No. 20193. Regret there is no vacancy at present General Staff 2nd Grade and in the event of vacancy have qualified p.s.c. officers employed in lower grades recommended for employment in higher grades. Quite possible that this will create vacancy for a brigade-major, in which case would be glad of services.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 1008/5)

13th September, 1915. 9.40 a.m.

Is there any objection to men of 25th Bn Royal Fusiliers pronounced unfit for active service being discharged in the colony for civil employment?

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. S. 336)

13th September, 1915. 10.25 a.m.

A wish has been expressed by the Union Government to send two or three experienced officers here at their own expense to study and report on the conditions of military operations in British East Africa. I have, of course, gladly accepted.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. S. 337)

13th September, 1915. 11.15 a.m.

With reference to my telegram No. 1122/3 of the 7th instant. The number of 303 rifles that I have left is only 600 and some of them are scarcely serviceable. I have asked India to send me another thousand but I do not think they can supply me even with old ones.

Prominent men of British East Africa at a mass meeting held on the 6th of this month voted unanimously for universal service in the Protectorate. The Governor has sent full particulars of this to the Colonial Office.

To arm the new force I should like to have good rifles.

I should be grateful for an answer to my telegram No. 1106/1 of the 5th instant. Half a million rounds of ammunition, accoutrements and web equipment should be added to the five hundred Mauser rifles.

From War Office to Major-General Tighe.

(No. 9165/6956)

13th September, 1915.

Shall we send out Lieutenants W. McDonald, 8th Bn Cameron Highlanders, F. W. Walker, Harrigan's Horse, South African Forces, and 2nd Lieutenant H. W. Hill, 11th Bn. Loyal North Lancashire Regiment? All have good knowledge of country and speak native languages. Would make good Special Service Officers. Cable reply.

From War Office to General Officer Commanding, Egypt.

(No. 7871, cipher. A. 5.) 13th September, 1915, 8.30 p.m.
With reference to our No. 7090, cipher A. 5, of 17th August, and your No. 1997 of 18th August. If not yet sent to England, 1,000 Portuguese Mausers, with 250 rounds per rifle, should be set aside for despatch to Nairobi at the earliest opportunity. Please cable the present situation with regard to these arms.

From Base, Kilindini, to War Office

(No. 17 416) 14th September, 1915, noon.
6 a.m., 14th September "Purnea" left for Bombay and Zanzibar with 3 Indian officers, 1 deportee, 1 public and 9 private followers.

From War Office to Major-General Tighe

(No. M.O. 375.) 14th September, 1915.
Your No. 1008/5, September 13th. Have you consulted Governor?

From War Office to Major-General Tighe

(No. 7851, cipher. M.O. 376.) 14th September, 1915, 1.50 p.m.
Your No. 8 337 dated 13th September. With reference to your No. 1106 of 5th September. The Colonial Office has telegraphed Governor of Nyasaland, and conditions of pay are being considered by Finance.
With reference to your No. 37/O of 7th September. Egypt is being asked to send 1,000 Mausers and 250,000 rounds.

From General Officer Commanding, Egypt, to War Office

(No. 1847 E.) 14th September, 1915, 7.20 p.m.
With reference to your No. 540 A. 5. These arms have been on board ship awaiting passage to England. I have been able to stop 1,000 rifles and 300 rounds per rifle. To whom should they be sent at Nairobi?

From War Office to General Officer Commanding, South Africa

(No. 7742, cipher. M.O. 377.) 14th September, 1915, 8.30 p.m.
Can you supply the following which we require for East Africa:—12 Rec lorries, 12 Packhard lorries, 15 Hupmobiles; also spares for six months? If you can do so, we will send you further instructions with regard to delivery.

From War Office to Major-General Tighe

(No. 7762, cipher. M.O. 378.) 14th September, 1915, 9 p.m.
With reference to your No. Q/2/2 of the 5th instant, one mechanical transport company will be sent from here. South Africa has been asked to send you the following with spares for six months:—12 Rec lorries, 12 Packhard lorries, 12 Hupmobiles.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office

(No. 338.) 14th September, 1915.
Strong enemy patrol was surprised 8 miles south of Maktau today by 60 British Mounted Infantry and 100 Baluchis. After a sharp fight the enemy fled, leaving dead on the field 1 white and 31 blacks, besides wounded. Our casualties were—Lieutenant Wildman, Baluchis, and 2 rank and file killed, and 1 British and 7 Native rank and file wounded. Many rifles, much ammunition and all kit was captured by our men.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office

(Received) 18th September, 1915.
(Dated) 14th September, 1915, 3 p.m.
The correspondence between the Union Government and myself has now been mostly finished, and is included in the despatch of howitzer section, and recruitment of complete Regiment, contingent at full strength. It appears that no further assistance in men can be given until after the elections in October. If these go favourably, both indicate (should you consent) that considerable forces might be sent here in November. I should be grateful for an expression of your (word omitted) as to probable assistance likely to be offered by the Union Government otherwise it will be difficult for me to know how far I am justified in accepting the offers of stores and ammunition.

From General Officer Commanding, Chief, South Africa, to War Office

(No. 644, cipher.) 15th September, 1915, 2.20 p.m.
Your telegram No. 104, cipher of 14th September. Do you mean Hupmobile motor cars and not lorries?

From General Officer Commanding, South Africa

(No. 7932, M.O. 380.) 15th September, 1915, 7.53 p.m.
Reference to your telegram No. 644, 13th September. We intended Hupmobile motor cars and not lorries.

From War Office to General Officer Commanding, Egypt

(No. A. 524.) 16th September, 1915.
Your No. 1847 E. Despatch 1,000 Portuguese rifles with 200,000 rounds of ammunition to Major-General Tighe, Nairobi, earliest opportunity. Freight should be arranged in conjunction with Naval Transport Office. Hasten return of remainder to England.

From War Office to General Officer Commanding, South Africa

(No. 7941, cipher. M.O. 381.) 16th September, 1915, 1.35 p.m.
Your No. 6387 of 13th September. Your reference to coils is partly undeciphered and not understood. The War Office will supply direct to Major-General Tighe electrical cable D. 1 130 miles, telephone apparatus sets 60, binoculars Galilean 50, binoculars trade pattern prismatic 20.

From War Office to Major-General Tythe.

(No. 7940, cipher M.O. 382.)

16th September, 1915, 1.45 p.m.

Your No. 42 of 28th August. We are sending 5,000 hand grenades. Sabulites are not available, but we are sending 5 cwt. of ammonal instead. We were not aware that you had any long range trench mortars.

For detonating ammonal No. 8 Mark VII detonators and safety fuse is used. Do you require these detonators? Commander Hay's pocket howitzer pot being an approved weapon, none have been made, nor has any ammunition.

French pattern projected grenade Kewelsior A, also rifle grenades and war rockets are not available.

With regard to the last paragraph of your telegram, do you anticipate that the quantity will be used?

From Major-General Tythe to War Office.

(No. 2000)

16th September, 1915, 2 p.m.

An American subject of German extraction, recently naturalized and named Blanke, initials C. A., has gone to pro-German sympathies, and receives letters from relations referring to German successes as our successes. I think that it is very desirable that he should be interned and propose to send him to India. Please confirm.

From War Office to Major-General Tythe.

(No. 7952, cipher M.O. 382.)

16th September, 1915, 4.55 p.m.

Could you make any use of two or three ambulance cars? We have received private offers of these for the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

From General Officer Commanding, Cape Town, to War Office.

(No. 741)

16th September, 1915, 9.30 p.m.

With reference to your telegram of the 31st August No. 7476, the following details of the Howitzer Battery Section left for Nairobi on the 10th instant—Royal Garrison Artillery—Lieutenants Hamilton and Bayes, 2 sergeants, 2 bombardiers, 1 mortar bombardier, 5 gunners, 1 smith corporal.

The following enlisted from the Cape Garrison Artillery—Second Lieutenant Hall, sergeant 7 gunners.

Also 4 enlisted recruits, 20 natives, 1 conductor, 2 howitzers, 974 rounds of ammunition complete, 4 wagons, 66 mules with harness, and 3 carts.

From Major-General Tythe to War Office.

(No. 7900/b.)

19th September, 1915, 11.55 a.m.

With reference to your telegram No. 7952, M.O. 1. It will be of the greatest importance to have 123 cars.

From General Smuts, Pretoria, to War Office.

(No. D. 21.)

20th September, 1915, 9.45 a.m.

With reference to your telegram No. 18696 of 17th August. Arrangements have been made by us for personnel, excluding drivers, for five 18-pr Q.F. 4-gun batteries, and these could embark the middle of next month but taking into account private telegram recently exchanged between the Colonial Secretary and the Governor-General, we propose now to mobilize these batteries, with mule drafts and coloured drivers, to serve in East Africa, the personnel to be paid from the Imperial Fund at the Union active citizen force rates. Is this understood? If so, when should they go forward? We should require the 1,200 fuses and the 6 No. 7 dial sights handed over to General Officer Commanding, Cape Town, for 275 mountain guns, vide your telegram No. 7896 of 14th September.

The personnel of one permanent battery with six German mountain guns are being sent by us to Karonga for the north-east border Rhodesia, and we are thus left with insufficient permanent personnel for even two batteries of German field guns which, by themselves, would be of little use in East Africa even if the Union and Protectorate, except the Cape Peninsula, were denuded of all field artillery, a course which is not altogether impracticable though undesirable.

From Major-General Tythe to War Office.

(No. 1095/4.)

20th September, 1915, 11.10 a.m.

There are 46 per cent of the 1st Rajputa unit to take the field and the whole regiment is suffering from malaria and debility. I have now moved them from one group under shelter and they will never be of any use in the field. Could they be replaced by a unit from India? This is strongly recommended by the medical authorities. As they are guarding part (the least vulnerable) of the Uganda Railway, I cannot let them go until they are replaced.

From War Office to Major-General Tythe.

(No. 8024, cipher M.O. 385.)

20th September, 1915, 1.45 a.m.

Your No. 24053 of 19th September. The existing offer No. 7952 of 16th September was as follows—A private offer has been made to us of two or three ambulance cars for the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. Are you able to make use of them?

From General Officer Commanding, Cape Town, to War Office.

(No. 6346.)

21st September 1915.

With reference to your telegram of the 19th September No. 7952, M.O. 389. All Packard and Eco lorries required can be supplied immediately by the Colonial Government new with 6 months' spares. Local agent can supply Buick models in about 2 weeks, but Chevrolet cars are obtainable immediately and probably other American types.

From War Office to Major-General Tythe.

(No. 8087, cipher M.O. 386.)

21st September, 1915, 10.45 a.m.

Reference your No. 339 S, 15th September. With regard to these matters the War Office has been in communication with the Union Government through the proper channel, and it is better that you should not correspond unofficially with South Africa. We cannot at present express any opinion as to what forces, if any, are likely to reach you in November from that quarter, and meanwhile, please refer any offers of stores and ammunition on a large scale to us for decision.

From Major-General Tighe to War Office.

(No. 47/O.)

22nd September, 1915, 2.5 p.m.

Reference your No. 20548 of 20th September. Gun-cotton yarn propellant and ballistite required for improvised trench mortars throwing 3-lb. dynamite bomb, instead of large grain black powder as ours hitherto. Presume number 8 Mark VI detonators suitable for above.

Your No. 7940 of 16th September. Ammonal and number 8 Mark VII. detonators for bursting charges; these and heavier weapons indicate gun-cotton.

From Base, Kildina to War Office

(No. 95/117)

23rd September, 1915.

Bogum arrived 22nd from India with reinforcements for Force B

From War Office to General Smuts, Pretoria

(No. 8212, cipher)

24th September, 1915, 6.20 p.m.

In order to assist the raising of a second brigade for East Africa we agree to the delay in sending first batch of reinforcements as outlined in your No. D. 187 of 20th September

From War Office to General Smuts, Pretoria

(No. 8243, cipher. C.I.G.S.)

24th September, 1915, 6.20 p.m.

Your No. D. 21 of 20th September. We agree to the altered proposals contained in your telegram for the mobilization and despatch of the five 13-pr. batteries to East Africa. As soon as they can be got ready you should despatch them under local shipping arrangements informing us of the earliest possible date of departure so that we may communicate with East Africa. The fuzes and No. 7 dial sights mentioned may be retained by you. Incidence of cost of pay will be subject to same understanding as arrived at by you with Governor-General with regard to the infantry for East Africa.

From Major-General Tythe to War Office.

(No. 47/O.)

22nd September, 1915, 2.5 p.m.

Reference your No. 20548 of 20th September. Gun-cotton yarn propellant and ballistite required for improvised trench mortars throwing 3-lb. dynamite bomb, instead of large grain black powder as ours hitherto. Presume number 8 Mark VI detonators suitable for above.

Your No. 7940 of 16th September. Ammonal and number 8 Mark VII detonators for bursting charges. These and heavier weapons indicate gun-cotton.

From Base, Kilindini to War Office.

(No. 25/117)

23rd September, 1915

Begum arrived 22nd from India with reinforcements for Force B.

From War Office to General Smuts, Pretoria.

(No. 8212, cipher)

24th September, 1915, 5.20 p.m.

In order to assist the raising of a second brigade for East Africa, we agree to the delay in sending first batch of reinforcements as outlined in your No. 10,187 of 20th September.

From War Office to General Smuts, Pretoria.

(No. 8243, cipher - CIGS)

24th September, 1915, 5.20 p.m.

Your No. 10,211 of 20th September. We agree to the altered proposals contained in your telegram for the mobilization and despatch of the five 13-pr. batteries to East Africa. As soon as they can be got ready you should despatch them under local shipping arrangements informing us of the earliest possible date of departure so that we may communicate with East Africa. The 6-inches and No. 7 dual sights mentioned may be retained by you. Incidence of cost of pay will be subject to same understanding as arrived at by you with Governor-General with regard to the infantry for East Africa.