

EAST AFRICA

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War Office  
(D. 4.0)

German East Africa

1915

23 Nov.

Lands pieces of information as  
to German East Africa obtained from  
a reliable Portuguese source.

Last previous Paper.

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54132

by ~~Bob~~ <sup>2 papers</sup>  
~~de~~ ~~East~~ Mr G Fiddes  
~~the~~ ~~Road~~

This is all quite interesting though  
it contains nothing startlingly new.  
We have heard from the Governor of  
Nyassaland about the dynamiting  
native emporiums and of the  
German activities in driving up the  
natives in Nyassaland and Portuguese  
East Africa. The proclamations are on  
the usual model.

Partly ✓

Partly ?

Notes to accompany the paper  
Manga to Shambhara by German  
Lands. Manga is at the extreme  
end of the lake - about 16 hrs. west of the Sorpare  
(bordering) river a 30 from Karori

Next subsequent Paper.

M. 1. 54266

11.11.15

M. J. R.  
29/11/15

29.11.15  
Mr. J. R. ...

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War Office,

Whitehall, S.W.,

23rd November, 1915.

M.O.S. 1389.

The Director of Military Operations  
presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of  
State for the Colonies and begs to forward for his  
information a precis of German activities among the  
natives in German East Africa etc. which have been  
extracted from Portuguese documents of a reliable  
source.

*sent*

No. A38891, 15.11.15.

From

Companhia de Navegaçao  
Rua Victor Gordon  
27. 1 Andar,  
Lisbon.

To

Companhia de Navegaçao,  
24, Bishopsgate,  
London, E.C.

8.11.15.

COMMENT.

Information of interest with regard to German activities among the natives in German East Africa etc. (attached).

C.G. & G. T.B.  
15.11.15.

E.B.

Submitted to M.O.S. by M.O.C. on 17.11.15.

Precis of the main body of the Portuguese Correspondence and full translation of the proclamation made by the Imperial Governor of German East Africa.

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First document - Copy 440.

Information referring to the imprisonment of a native Adelemani, belonging to the Nyassa Territory Company, by two native chiefs, under the jurisdiction of the same Company. The prisoner had in his possession 120 dynamite bombs, a portion of fuse, one green flag with a red crescent, and a number of letters addressed to Mahometan natives. Everything points to the fact that one of the native addressees of the letters, Issa by name, and a Moslem priest in the employment of the Germans and that the bombs were to be used against the Europeans residing in the Territory of the Nyassa Co. The native chiefs, prisoners and letters have been brought to the headquarters of the Company, and although the letters written in Arabic, had not yet been properly translated, everything indicates that the whole affair was the work of the Germans to raise the Moslem natives.

Second document - (Copy 441).

The first part of this copy only refers to the different steps taken by the Official of the Company in charge of the case mentioned in the first copy, to ascertain the facts and get hold of the prisoners and letters. Everything confirms his suspicion of this being the work of Germans to cause a rising through the Moslem native priests of the Mahometan natives.

The second part of the copy (page 5) gives the copies of the translation of different documents proving that the whole thing was the work of Germans. These copies are :-

(1) Copy of the letter from the Company's Official to the resident of Bert-Johnston. In this letter the Official asks the English resident to hand him over the native prisoner, who by mistake had been handed to the English authorities.

(2) Copy of the letter from the resident of Chintechi  
(written in English).

(3) Portuguese translation of same.

(4) Translation of the deposition made by the prisoner  
Indelmen before the resident of Chintechi.

The prisoner declared that, having been in 1914 to  
Mwaya, German territory, in order to sell his harvest, he was  
arrested by German Sepoys on the charge of being a spy sent  
by the English. After his protest, swearing by the Koran  
and drinking "Elimina", he was released and ordered to take  
three bags, a flag and two iron rods to the English (priest)  
Issa, who is not only known by the Germans but also by all  
Europeans all round. The prisoner for his commission received  
4 shillings in German coin, and 8/- in English coin, which with  
Issa's money had four odd sovereigns for different people made  
up a total of 27 when he left Mwaya. The German Authorities  
gave him a permit and he was accompanied by a German as far as  
Luwintu Mapupayi, where he saw the s.s. "Siawanan". When he  
reached Portuguese Territory, having been very roughly treated  
when still in German Territory after his permit was taken from  
him, the bags were opened and found to contain dynamite fuses and  
fuses, of whose existence he was not aware. He was taken into  
the presence of the resident of Chintechi and cross-examined by  
this functionary.

Of this cross-examination only the prisoner's answers are  
given in the Portuguese document, and thought that some may  
be of interest, as

No. 1. The Germans say that after the bursting of the under-  
growth, at the end of the Ramadan, they are going to attack  
Haronga. Everything is prepared for this attack and for the  
taking of Haronga. Nobody will escape.

No. 2. The instructions given to their forces are "continual  
fire followed by bayonet charges".

No. 3. Perhaps the native forces will be attired in European  
uniform.

No. 7. Fifteen Europeans and 3 companies of native forces have arrived at Sphinxhaven - they brought with them 3 guns, tools and parts of a steamer, which they are going to try to put together. (Perhaps the prisoner refers to the s.s. "Wissman", which was more or less destroyed by the English).

No. 8. They are waiting for more Europeans.

No. 9. When I passed there they (the Germans) had already mounted guns on every salient in the bay.

No. 10. They have now two large boats - I myself crossed in one of them from Mwaya to Sphinxhaven and we were altogether 22 men on board.

No. 11. ~~They~~ European and native forces have arrived at Mwaya from Tenge and all the interior posts in order to attack Harunga.

No. 12. They have two big guns.

No. 13. I did not see any "Maxim" at Mwaya, but I saw 2 at Sphinxhaven.

No. 14. At Chvindi, in the frontier of the Portuguese territory they have 10 white men and 2 companies of native forces with 2 guns.

No. 15. I have heard it said at Mwaya, that all the Germans in German East Africa are compelled to enlist and that every day from 30 to 40 are enrolled.

No. 16. I do not know anything about Mwalimu Issa, the only thing I do know, is that the Germans are always sending things to him to Mtsanga.

The third part of the copy (418) of the Portuguese document (page 8) deals with the letters found in the possession of the prisoner Mulemani and addressed to different natives and gives translations of some of these letters.

In letter No. 2 dated June, addressed to the Mwalimu Issa Hilora and signed Mwaya, the writer acknowledges receipt of a letter from the addressee and sends him £3 and 15/- for another native Hamili. The writer wants to be informed of everything that is going on, orders the addressee to interrogate the native Hamili and, agreeing with the addressee's plans, he exhorts him to carry

on the war, promising to make him a great man and the ruler of a large country, besides many presents for all the other native chiefs, of whom he would take supreme command, and all the instructions would be given to him.

Letter No. 17 - to Mwalimu - informing him of safe arrival of his brother, and that everybody was pleased with the news he brought - letter on he says - "it will be terrible, which means everybody will be killed. It is desirable to tell all the chiefs that they will receive many presents from the Germans. The news you have sent, has been of the greatest value to the Germans. What we are sending to you is something to kill people. Everyone of them will be killed, as you will see. You may be sure of receiving a large present from the Germans. All the Swahilis and all the chiefs hope that God will help them, and God is All Powerful. All true Swahilis must be glad that the Germans are here. If you try to employ the things I am sending you have to light them very quickly. I have many books "Fata, Alaba, Minihaja, Sabejina, Hajali etc." books to adore God, some of which will be sent to you. I am also sending the flag of the Supreme Chief. Do all these things but do them in some secret place."

This letter has no signature.

The fourth part (page 12) of this document deals with the letter addressed always to the same priest Issa, by the German Captain Fallreinstein, in which he says :-

"The Holy War is spread all over the world, in Egypt, Morocco, Tunis, Algeria, Tripoli, Afghanistan, Beluchistan, Persia, India, Soudan, Kwambi, Islam, side by side with Germany and Austria, is fighting England, France, Italy, Belgium, Serbia and Japan, and has beaten all enemies. Turkey with Stambul has vanquished Russia many times and sunk many ships of the English and French Navy. In Morocco France is retreating. In Tripoli Islam has beaten the Italians. The Moslem countries are fighting the English. In Persia our enemies are the English and Russians, but they have been beaten. In Afghanistan the English are running away. The soldiers of the Holy War are in the Punjab and India. Germany and

Austria are beating France. Russia and England, France and Russia are nearly defeated. England is not yet defeated, but her soldiers are killed by ours, and her men-of-war are sunk, more than 500 have already been lost. Here in East Africa our soldiers are very near the English railway line at various places. Three railway bridges have been destroyed. Many civilians and English soldiers have been killed. The Belgian soldiers have been beaten everywhere many killed, many made prisoners. Here too in Nyasaland there are many German soldiers. You are Moslems and as Moslems we must have a meeting. Now each Mahometan killed, will be for the cause of God. You must inform me very often of everything and give me the names of the tribe of the Angonis you mention as well as its chiefs.

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 Full translation of the proclamation (Tangazo) made at Morogoro by the German Imperial Governor, Schnee

Tangazo - Proclamation - November the 14th, 1914. The Sultan of Turkey, Constantinople, proclaimed that war has been declared on Mahometans. Our enemies are England, France, Russia, Belgium and Serbia. This great war is for us a Holy War. The priests have sent us Mahometan emissaries. On November the 14th, I read them this proclamation from the mosque Fatimo and now the war is proclaimed all over the world. In the mosque of the palace of the Sultan of Turkey have been kept for many years the praying carpets of the prophet Mahomet. The news of the war is - Many enemies have joined to annihilate, kill and imprison the Mahometans. The Sultan of Turkey is the representative of the prophet and in that capacity commands, in the name of the Koran, the Holy War. This war is for right and justice and is made by all Islam, old and young, infantry and cavalry.

Islam, all over the world, is trying to raise money in order to maintain this Holy War.

England, France and Russia and thier supporters have with their armies and navies declared war on the representative of Mahomet, the Prophet and wish to destroy the religion of the Prophet.



Everyone who is under the representative of Mahomet the prophet, and is a believer, must join in this Holy War. Now the Islam calls all its believers to the Holy War, those refusing to join will be cursed by God and will dig the pit of their own destruction. God shall give them great diseases, God and I punish them.

Those joining the English and other countries will commit a great sin. If they are compelled by the enemy to kill their own co-religionists, they must not do so, even if they are threatened with death.

The Moslem subjects of the English, French, Russian or any other nation friendly to the former, fighting against Germany or Austria, that is, against those helping the Sultan and Islam, will be cursed by God because they have contributed to the annihilation of the representative of Islam.

Moragore 25th of February, 1915.

(signed) THE IMPERIAL GOVERNOR SCHNEE.

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