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NOV. 15 APR 15

War office

1915

14 April

Last previous Paper  
207 179955

German East Africa

Telegraphic correspondence

as to operations

Mr B. B. ...

NOTE as to the loss of

two machine guns at Salaita

It strengthens one's conviction

as to the incompetence of

the Indian Generals.

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- The General ...  
a demonstration ...  
also - possibly ...  
... the ...  
... way

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Apr 15/4/15

(107) 15.4.15

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16.4.15

Next subsequent Paper

17524 S

Understand ...

Yes 16.4.15 16.4.15



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*

*April 14<sup>th</sup> 1905*

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

(No. 5869.)

5th April, 1915.

Reference your No. S. 6912. General Wapshare ordered proceed Basra first opportunity and to report departure to you and Force D.

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

(No. 3895, cipher. M.O. 1 (D).)

6th April, 1915, 5.30 p.m.

With reference to your telegram of 5th April, No. 238/11. Provided the sanction of the Commander-in-Chief, India, is obtained there is no objection here to your taking A.D.C.

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

(No. 270.)

6th April, 1915.

With reference to your telegram No. 3698 of 22nd March. The personnel of two sections, with cable and telegraph equipment, is being supplied by India. India is unable to supply visual. Can you please supply sufficient of the latter for two brigade sections?

*From War Office to Major-General Wapshare*

(No. 3899, cipher. M.O. 236.)

6th April, 1915, 7.5 p.m.

Your No. 251 of 29th March. The Colonial Office is still considering the matter.

*From Secretary of State for Colonies to Governor of East Africa Protectorates*

6th April, 1915, 5.15 p.m.

Your cipher telegram No. 257. It has been suggested that Somalia should be sent to Port Sudan. You should communicate direct with Wingate and see whether this can be arranged.

*From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.*

(No. 272 S.)

7th April, 1915, 8.25 p.m.

My telegram No. 226 S. of 15th February. Two companies Kashmir Rifles replaced Scouts at Loosote, 90 miles south of Simba. This post is occupied partially to protect our Masai, partially to deny approach to railway. It was reported on 26th March that the enemy contemplated an attack in force on the post. Tiba ordered a demonstration from Maktau on Salata, which is 8 miles from Taveta, in order to relieve

pressure. The attack was made at dawn on 28th March. The attack was continued too long, allowing reinforcements to arrive from Taveta. On retiring we were attacked by superior forces, and our difficulties were increased by very heavy rain. The enemy was beaten off, but owing to the defection of gun porters, who ran, we lost two machine guns. Our casualties were—130th, 2 killed, 6 wounded and 4 missing; King's African Rifles, 3 killed, 3 wounded. All fought well, especially the 130th, and the retirement was steady. The loss of the machine guns is much regretted, but otherwise the object of the demonstration was fulfilled, as no attack was made on Loosoto. We now know that a considerable force was detailed by enemy for proposed attack, which force was withdrawn from Taveta when Salaita was attacked.

The interruption of communication by heavy rain is the cause of delay of this report.

*From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.*

(No. 274 S.)

8th April, 1915, 4.10 p.m.

My No. S. 215, of 6th February; your No. 3089, of 15th February, and my letter No. S. 158, paragraph 4, of 13th January. The Voi—Maktau Railway has been laid for 6 miles and earthworks completed for another 10. The rails and sleepers will leave India in a short time. When completed, the railway will allow a much greater force than before to be employed on this line, provided that reinforcements become available. But in that case the original water arrangements will no longer be sufficient, especially as a considerable quantity of water will be required by the railway itself. The only large permanent supply is near Bura, and with a 3-inch pipe sufficient water for 5,000 men and animals could be taken, not only to Maktau, a distance of 17 miles, but also to Mbuyuni, 13 miles further on, where a final concentration can take place prior to the waterless march to the Lumi River. 35 miles of 3-inch pipe is required, 25 miles of which, available in 2 months' time, can be lent free by the Uganda Railway. I request permission to ask India for the remaining 10 miles. I quite understand that it is not possible for any definite forecast to be made as to the reinforcements to carry the Voi—Taveta advance, but in order to advance on the scale that is necessary, and that has been rendered possible by the railway, this water scheme is essential, and I trust that as soon as possible sanction may be given to it.

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