

**EAST AFR. PROT.**

C O  
24047  
REC'D  
REG'D 25 MAY 15

24047 ~~Secret~~

Was office

German East Africa

1915  
24 May

Telegraphic correspondence

Last previous Paper  
✓  
238405

as to operations

has been by ~~letter~~ Sir G. Fisher

with as to appalling atrocities  
committed by the German troops -

(we have now instructed the  
Governor to retain the W/T station  
for military naval purposes only)

Copy

25/5/15 by 25/5/15

J. H.  
25/5/15

V.L. 25.5.15

J  
26.5.15

26.5.15

Next subsequent Paper  
20.5

240-47



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The Director of Military Operations presents his compliments to *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*

*May 24<sup>th</sup> 1915*

24047

SECRET.

139

*From Major-General Tighe to War Office.*

(No. 374.)

8th May, 1915, 3 p.m.

A Belgian force, 11 Europeans and 520 Africans, was incorporated in the defensive force Ankola section Kagera, and has been placed under the orders of (?) General Stewart. It is impossible for them to arrange their own supplies, and this has been done from British East Africa. I presume there is no question of recovery from the Belgian Government for rations.

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

(No. 8933)

13th May, 1915.

You should make no claim for supplies issued by you to Belgian Contingent but information will be required as to expenditure incurred on their behalf. Records should therefore be kept of strength of Belgian Contingent rationed and approximate cost and statement rendered to this office in due course.

*From Major-General Tighe to War Office.*

(No. W. 2134)

17th May, 1915, 12.5 p.m.

An order was made in Colonial Office telegram of 6th May for the opening of Mombasa wireless installation to the public. This will constitute a grave military danger in my opinion. Germans can tap every message which is sent, and although private and commercial messages, taken singly may appear harmless yet a number of them in succession taken together may give valuable information. This opinion is confirmed by our own tapping of German messages; we have obtained useful information from apparently trivial messages. Most severe censorship will be necessary if the station is opened and it would probably cause delay and inconvenience. My suggestion is that it should be kept solely for military and naval emergency.

It is at the suggestion of the Governor that I am referring the matter to you.

*From Major-General Tighe to War Office.*

(No. 21333)

17th May, 1915.

With reference to Base Commandant's report relative to the killing of Major Walker, 20th Punjab, two Sepoys and two African followers, on 12th April, by a German patrol, further reports have now clearly established the following facts. All dead had been first wounded and then finished off at close quarters. Extremely destructive bullets were used. The body of Major Walker was shockingly mutilated, and penis cut off and put in mouth. There were white men present who should have been able to prevent these atrocities.

A protest is being sent to the Officer Commanding Forces, German East Africa.

*From Major-General Tighe to War Office.*

(No. S.)

17th May, 1915, 2.30 p.m.

YOUR No. 4669 of 15th May

I am afraid that my telegram No. 270 of 6th April has misled you. The final paragraph should have said --

"Unable to supply visual equipment, can you kindly send sufficient of latter for 2 brigade sections?"

However as the Royal Fusiliers have only 2 signallers and there are frequent casualties from sickness, I shall be most grateful for personnel noted in your telegram No. 4669.

24047

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2  
*From Governor of East Africa Protectorate to Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

(No. 167.)

15th May, 1915, 1.4 p.m.

Regret to inform you that an East Africa mounted rifle patrol was ambushed 18th May near Seki water-hole about 8 miles from Bissel. Trooper A. Anderson wounded slightly, next-of-kin in India has been informed. Following are missing: Trooper J. Foster, please inform Mrs. J. Foster, 14A, Nicholson Street, Edinburgh; Trooper G. S. Poyer, please inform Mrs. John Poyer, "The Times" (4 Limes), Wellington Road, Hampton, Middlesex; Trooper P. Ducourtoy, next-of-kin, Seychelles, has been informed; Trooper J. Dawson, next-of-kin, Naivasha, has been informed.

*From Governor of East Africa Protectorate to Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

(No. 168.)

15th May, 1915, 3.35 p.m.

With reference to my telegram of 14th May. Troopers Poyer and Ducourtoy have been found wounded. Trooper Foster has rejoined. Trooper Dawson was killed. Please inform relations of Poyer and Foster.

*From Governor of East Africa Protectorate to Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

(72.)

15th May, 1915, 5.15 p.m.

Regret to inform you that following casualties reported in action at Mzima

1. Killed in action, Transport Corps Corporal R. P. Robertson; please inform Mrs. Robertson, Auchincloss, Balquhadder Perthshire. Transport Corps Corporal John Cameron, please inform Miss M. M. Cameron, Tolworth Hospital, Surbiton. Intelligence Officer Arthur Richard Wadsworth, next of kin not known at present.

*From Major-General Tighe to War Office.*

(21.)

20th May, 1915, 12.50 p.m.

The appointment of Sir W. Johns to Force B was by India Office, No. 633, 17th September, 1914. He went to India when the railway project was suspended—our No. 82 of 3rd December. General Wajshare recalled him at once when the Maktou Railway was sanctioned, and he gave valuable help in superintending the collection and shipment of railway material. I propose that his payment should commence from the date, in March, when he left Bombay.

*From Major-General Tighe to War Office.*

(No. 8.)

20th May, 1915, 12.50 p.m.

With reference to your telegram of 15th May, No. 4663, cipher. Before the Royal Fusiliers are fit to be used offensively they require much training; 500 have never fired a rifle. Therefore, for the present, the proposed expedition against Bukoba must be postponed. Personal reconnaissance showed that our defensive line along the Kagera River would be weakened rather than strengthened by the inclusion of Bukoba. But as the latter is a base for the western section of the enemy's forces which face us along the Kagera, the destruction of the stores, fort and wireless installation there would hamper the enemy's operations and thus indirectly strengthen our defensive line. There would also be a considerable political effect.

Before organizing the expedition, I will send a more complete report.

*From Major-General Tighe to War Office.*

(No. 218.)

20th May, 1915, 12.50 p.m.

400,000 cartridges, .303-inch, for use with machine guns, and also 200 rifles have been asked for by Commandant Henry. If you see no objection, I can spare cartridges and long rifles, and presumably the British East Africa Corporation may be asked to forward them.

*From Major-General Tighe to War Office.*

(No. 214 O/19.)

20th May, 1915, 12.50 p.m.

With reference to my telegram No. S. 274 of 8th April. The following message was received by the manager of the Uganda Railway on 15th May from the Crown Agents, London—

"Water piping now ready for shipment. Cannot arrange immediate shipment."

I should be very glad if you could assist the Crown Agents to ship as an early date for I depend on this piping for the water supply of Maktou and Mbuyuni, and if it is not shipped early the construction of the railway will be greatly delayed.

*From War Office to Major-General Tighe.*

(No. 4804, cipher. M.O. 264.)

21st May, 1915, 11.55 a.m.

Your No. 218, cipher, of 20th May. Rifles and ammunition may become scarce and valuable, and you should not part with any. If the Belgians require supplies of this kind they should request their Government to address demands to London, where, if possible, it is possible to co-ordinate and judge how far they can be met. We have asked the Foreign Office to inform the Belgian Government.

*From War Office to Major-General Tighe.*

(No. M.O. 263.)

21st May, 1915

Your 2140/19, 20th May. Crown Agents are arranging to ship most of water piping on "Matiana," sailing about 25th May from London.

*From Governor of East Africa Protectorate to Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

(No. 167) 15th May, 1915, 1.4 p.m.  
 Regret to inform you that an East Africa mounted rifle patrol was ambushed 18th May near Seki water-hole about 8 miles from Bissel. Trooper A. Anderson wounded slightly, next-of-kin in India has been informed. Following are missing: Trooper J. Foster, please inform Mrs. J. Foster, 131, Nicholson Street, Edinburgh; Trooper G. S. Poyer, please inform Mrs. John Poyer, "The Times" (1 Limes), Wellington Road, Hampton, Middlesex; Trooper P. Ducourtoy, next-of-kin, Seychelles, has been informed; Trooper J. Dawson, next-of-kin, Naivasha, has been informed.

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 With reference to my telegram of 14th May. Troopers Poyer and Ducourtoy have been found wounded. Trooper Foster has rejoined. Trooper Dawson was killed. Please inform relations of Poyer and Foster.

*From Governor of East Africa Protectorate to Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

(No. 172) 18th May, 1915, 5.15 p.m.  
 Regret to inform you that following casualties reported in action at Matiana on 17th May: Transport Corps Corporal R. P. Robertson; please inform Mrs. Robertson, Auchtermole, Balquhider, Perthshire. Transport Corps Corporal Johnson; please inform Miss M. M. Cameron, Tolworth Hospital, Surbiton. Intelligence agent Arthur Richard Wadson; next of kin not known at present.

*From Major-General Tighe to War Office.*

(No. 223) 20th May, 1915, 12.50 p.m.  
 The appointment of Sir W. Johns to Force B was by India Office, No. 633, 17th September, 1914. He went to India when the railway project was suspended on No. 82 of 3rd December. General Wapshare recalled him to India when the Voh-Maktou Railway was sanctioned, and he gave valuable help in superintending the collection and shipment of railway material. I propose that his payment should be resumed from the date, in March, when he left Boulay.

*From Major-General Tighe to War Office.*

(No. S 297) 20th May, 1915, 12.50 p.m.  
 With reference to your telegram of 15th May, No. 4663, cipher. Before the Royal Fusiliers are fit to be used offensively they require much training. 500 have never fired a rifle. Therefore for the present, the proposed expedition against Bukoba must be postponed. Personal reconnaissance showed that our defensive line along the Kagera River would be weakened rather than strengthened by the inclusion of Bukoba. But as the latter is a base for the eastern section of the enemy's force which face us along the Kagera, the destruction of the stores, fort and wireless installation there would hamper the enemy's operations and thus indirectly strengthen our defensive line. There would also be a considerable political effect.

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