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1916

March 4th

Last previous Paper.

15409

German East Africa

Forward G.O.C.'s War Diary for
period January 28th to February 18th.

Mr. Beckwith,
Mr. Reed,

See also 15409. Both the ^{dispatches} ~~dispatches~~ contain
a good deal of useful and interesting
information, but the position has now
changed so completely that they ~~appear~~
seem very ancient history.

It is evident that the unsuccessful
attack on Salaita Hill on February 12th
was a bad business altogether.

This set of ~~dispatches~~ ^{dispatches} instalment of the
Diary brings the narrative up to the
point immediately preceding General Smith's
arrival. One feels that it was the
highland time for him to get there.

Copy of 15409 to D. I. D. Army (Spa)
as usual?

Copy to D.I.D. Army (Spa) 12 April.

next subsequent Paper

15457

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Nairobi, Kenya,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

4th March 1916.

SECRET.

Sir,

With reference to my Secret despatch of February 12, 1916, I have the honour to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of the Résumé of the General Officer Commanding's War Diary from January 26 to February 18.

Govt 15409 S

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

H. Conway, P.C., M.P.

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

ENCLOSURE

In Despatch *Secret* / 4 March 1916

(COPY).

SECRET.

General Headquarters,
Nairobi,

304

8th February 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a
Résumé of my War Diary from 28th January to 4th
February 1916, inclusive, for the information of
His Excellency and the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. de C. O'GRADY, Major,

for General,

Commander-in-Chief, East African Forces.

To

The Private Secretary

to H.E. The Governor and Commander-in-Chief,

British East Africa.

From 28th January to 4th February 1916 inclusive.

January 28th. The 6th Infantry (Indian Army), strength about 500 rifles, are coming to British East Africa from the Cameroons.

The Commander of the New Portuguese Military Expeditionary Force at Palma is assuming an attitude of armed neutrality.

The latest report on the distribution of the 'Königsberg' shows :-

5 at Dar-es-salaam
2 at Tanga
1 at Mwanza
1 at Kigoma.

A light trolley line runs from Momba to Handeni; and a good motor road runs from Korokwe to Morogoro via Handeni.

All quiet at Serengetti.

There are estimated to be only some 20 Companies now on the Tanga-Moshi Line.

In all it may be taken as certain that there are not more than 10,000 trained askaris, with about 1,200 Europeans, available to take the field in German East Africa.

In Uganda the enemy are still in fear of invasion from the Lake.

The Germans in German East Africa are aware that reinforcements from South Africa, up to some 10,000, have landed in Mombasa recently. This information is being held back from the German natives.

2.

January 29th. All quiet.

January 30th. A report was received from the O.C., Kagera, that a party of Belgians were surrounded by some 300 Germans a few miles South of Lutobo. This was later found to have been greatly exaggerated. The enemy eventually retired - no casualties on either side.

There are distinct indications that the enemy have evacuated or are evacuating Kasigau.

January 31st. Kasigau has been evacuated by the enemy.

February 1st. General Smith-Dorrien asked General Tighe's opinion as to the advisability of conducting operations before the rains. The latter sent a most emphatic reply, saying that he considered such a course absolutely essential.

General Tighe left for Maktou on inspection duty.

Further confirmation of the evacuation of Kasigau has been received.

Information received from the O.C., Kagera, regarding the hostile operations against the Belgians, South of Lutobo, shows that the report was very much exaggerated. The enemy have now retired, and the Belgians had no casualties.

Reports from Portuguese East Africa estimate the enemy strength in German East at 1,500 Europeans, of whom only 800 are effective, with about 5,000 natives, of whom about 2,000 are excellent.

The enemy are still reported to be holding

Mwakijembi

S.

Mwakijembi with 3 or 4 Companies.

Our latest estimate of the enemy strength in German East Africa is :-

<u>Europeans</u>	<u>Askaris</u>	<u>Levies & Recruits</u>	<u>Guns</u>	<u>Machine Guns</u>
1,660	12,700	2,200	62	83

The number 83 for Machine Guns is probably an exaggerated estimate.

February 2nd. Definite information has been received that the enemy had evacuated Kasigau on the 31st.

A party of the enemy, estimated at 200, attacked our post at Mitay Ayiu on the afternoon of the 31st. After a 2-hours' fight, the enemy withdrew. Casualties on either side are not yet known.

On the Coast it is confirmed that only one Company is at Tanga, with about 400 rifles, in an entrenched camp at Kange.

On the morning of the 31st ultimo about 50 enemy attacked our road-making party near Mzima and were beaten off.

The enemy appear to be expecting an advance on our part on Ngari Mafobi.

February 3rd. Troops of the 2nd Division reconnoitred Salaita Hill this morning. Some enemy were seen, and Salaita was shelled without any visible result.

Orders have been issued for the 3rd K.A.R. to be taken off railway defence and to be concentrated at Serengetti Camp as part of the 1st East African Brigade.

February 4th. Our troops occupied Kasigau at 6.30 p.m. yesterday.

It is confirmed that the line from Mombo to Handeni is only a trolley line. The line terminates at Mderema (half an hour from Handeni). At the former place, water is scarce.

The German Commander, Lettow Forbeck, is still at Moshi.

The enemy evacuated Kampfontein and Ngare ol Motonye about 10 days ago, and are reported to have evacuated Arusha about the same time.

All reports show that the general situation is quiet.

(Copy).

No. 59/G.G.

SECRET.

General Headquarters,
Nairobi,

309

14th February 1916.

From

The General Officer Commanding Troops,
British East Africa and Uganda,

To

The Private Secretary to H.E. the Governor
and Commander-in-Chief,
British East Africa.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of
a Résumé of my War Diary, from the 5th February to
the 11th February inclusive, for the information of
His Excellency and the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) G. PHILLIPS, Major,
for Major General,

Commanding Troops, B.E.A. & Uganda.

Copy Forwarded for information to :-

The Chief Secretary to the Government, Uganda.
The Naval Commander-in-Chief.
The Senior Naval Officer, Lake Victoria.
Major Grogan.

February 5th. Telegram from War Office to re-establish full examination at Coast ports owing to presence in Atlantic of armed German vessel.

Governor of Uganda, Officer Commanding, Kagera, and Major Grogan to meet Belgian General (Tombeur) at Lutero to-day.

February 6th. Officer Commanding, Kagera, wires that Belgians prepared to undertake advance on Ruanda provided porters and carts placed at his disposal.

February 7th. All quiet on Coast and at Kasigau. Enemy still occupying Salaita Hill and vicinity.

Natives report, on 4th, enemy have removed valuables from Arusha towards Kondos Irangi.

In Uganda enemy are increasing their strength, on the Kagera, which now amounts to about 500 rifles.

General Tighe returned from Maktau.

Telegram sent to General Smith-Dorrien announcing proposal to advance for capture of Salaita between 12th and 14th.

Patrol of 27th Cavalry ambushed on Longido Line, resulting in our loss - 2 British officers killed or wounded prisoners, 5 rank and file killed, 7 missing. Enemy reported to have lost about 30. Full details not to hand.

Reconnoitring patrol came in contact with enemy near Salaita. Enemy reported to have had several casualties. Lieut. Dennis, Intelligence Agent, killed.

February 8th. Enemy reported to have withdrawn reliable troops

troops from Dar-es-salaam towards Moshi about 20th January.

Enemy still working on northern face of Malaita.

About one company of enemy located near

Nyasank.

Lieut. Hall, Intelligence Agent, also reported killed or prisoner at Malaita yesterday.

February 9th

Reconnaissance in force carried out in direction of Malaita. The hill is occupied, but no fighting took place.

1
Aeroplane belonging to newly arrived No. 26 Squadron R.F.C. made successful trial flight at Mbuyuni.

Two rank and file reported missing in patrol affair at Longido (February 7th) have returned to Longido West.

All quiet on the Coast.

In view of probable withdrawal of troops from Dar-es-salaam and the Nyassaland border, a force not exceeding 600 Europeans and 5,000 natives, with about 40 machine guns, must be expected at Taveta or in vicinity. These will consist of the enemy's best troops, but will necessitate evacuation of Tangu, coast North of Tangu, and only a weak detachment West of Kilimanjaro. There is no evidence of enemy's second class troops being in Kilimanjaro.

All quiet on Longido Line.

Enemy reported to be showing little activity in Nyassaland.

February 10th.

Practically all the Taveta garrison reported

to be encamped in the forest East of the Lumi River, one mile South of the road.

Native rumour states enemy intend to attack flank of our advance on Taveta. Second senior officer of Taveta district is said to have been killed when we shelled Salaita on February 3rd.

Telegram from War Office appointing Brigadier-General Hoskins as B.G.G.S. in succession to Brigadier-General Simpson-Baikle.

February 11th. On evening of 9th, Company of enemy reported at Malingoni (Mareni district) and to be marching North.

Small party said to have crossed Ramisi River yesterday morning at Mwam Kuchi. Owing to heavy rain, all water holes on Coast in Mwele Ngaranga area are full. Taveta garrison said to have taken up position East of Lumi River, one mile South of road bridge.

Voi-Taveta railway reached 1,000 yards East of Njaka Drift on 9th instant.

Enemy's forces West of Kilimanjaro believed not to exceed 3 Companies, with 2 machine guns.

Telegram received from General Smith-Barry in effect that, as his health will not have sufficiently recovered for him to proceed to British East Africa before the middle of March, War Office is appointing successor.

(Copy).

No. 57/G.O.

~~SECRET~~

General Headquarters,

Nairobi,

21st February 1916.

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From

The General Officer Commanding Troops,
British East Africa and Uganda,

To

The Private Secretary to H.E. the Governor and
Commander-in-Chief,
British East Africa.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of
a Résumé of my War Diary, from the 12th February to
the 18th February inclusive, for the information of
His Excellency and the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) F. E. GUEST, Captain,

For Major General,

Commanding Troops, E.E.A. & Uganda.

Copy forwarded for information to :-

The Chief Secretary to the Government, Uganda.
The Naval Commander-in-Chief.
The Senior Naval Officer, Lake Victoria.
Major Grogan.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

February 12th. The 2nd Division under the command of General Malleson, composed of 16 guns and the 1st East African Brigade (less the 3rd King's African Rifles) and the 2nd South African Brigade (less the 8th Battalion), under the command of Colonel Price and General Beves, respectively, made an unsuccessful attack on the enemy's position at Salaita. Casualties occurred amounting to over 160, all ranks, mostly in the South African Brigade. General Malleson's Force withdrew to Serengeti in the evening.

Telegram received from War Office appointing Lieutenant General Smuts as Commander-in-Chief, East African Forces.

February 13th. General Tighe, Lieut. Colonel Grant, G.S.O. (1), proceeded to headquarters, 2nd Division.

Casualties at Salaita on the 12th as follows :-

Officers killed	3
" wounded	10
" missing	1
Other ranks killed	22
" " wounded	102
" " missing	36
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Total	174

7th Battalion, 2nd South African Brigade, suffered most severely :-

Officers wounded	5
" missing	1
Other ranks killed	8
" " wounded	41
" " missing	26
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	84

All quiet on the Longido Line during the past two days.

February 14th. Unreliable reports were received at General Headquarters, from the Coast Detachment, that small parties of the enemy were in the vicinity of the Ruvu River.

General Tige remained with 2nd Division.

February 15th. Telegram was received from Commander Simpson that the two British gunboats, 'Mimi' and 'Pifi', had successfully chased and sunk the German armed tug 'Hedwig von Wiseman' on Lake Tanganyika after an action of half an hour.

Enemy's casualties - killed, 1 white and 1 black; prisoners, 12 white (including Captain), and 9 blacks.

Our casualties nil.

Intelligence Report from the Longido Line stated that mounted troops had passed through Arusha from the West, and that they had temporarily occupied Sheep's Hill, 8 miles South-East of Longido West.

Headquarters of the 3rd South African Brigade, with 9th Battalion of South Africans, arrived in the country and proceeded to MASHOTI.

General Tige still remains with 2nd Division.

February 16th. 2nd Division reported that Serengeti Camp was raided during the night of 15th-16th.

All quiet on Longido Line. Fine weather continues, no rain having fallen recently.

February 17th. Telegram was sent to War Office describing the attack made on Salaita Hill on the 16th.

Intelligence reports that enemy would appear to be withdrawing troops from Mushi and Taveta and to be concentrating

3.

concentrating on the line Kabe, Ogueno, and Jipe.

Reconnaissances were pushed from Longiao and have ascertained that the enemy is maintaining his patrol line from Ngassera-Nanjuki-Kampfontein.

February 18th. General Tigue left 2nd Division Headquarters and proceeded to Mombasa to meet Lieut. General Smuts.

A Cape Boy Battalion arrived at Kilindini and proceeded to join the 1st Division.

Telegram from Lake Detachment was received, describing successful repulse of enemy attack to storm Kachumba Post, Uganda.

Enemy's forces - 4 Germans and 200 askaris - suffered heavily, leaving on the ground 3 Germans killed and 53 askaris killed, wounded, and prisoners, also a maxim gun.

Our casualties nil.

The Director of the Intelligence Division presents
his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for the
Colonies and begs to return with thanks the enclosed
Copies of War Diaries from the G.O.C. East Africa,
- 37 Jan. and 28 Jan. - 18 Feb. 1916.

Admiralty War Staff.
Intelligence Division.
22nd April, 1916.

sent 17/5/16

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The Director of the Intelligence Division presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies and begs to request that he may have copies of the War Diaries from the G.O.C., East Africa, 8th to the 27th of January and 28th January to the 18th February, 1916 for further perusal.

Admiralty War Staff.

Intelligence Division.

15. 5. 16.

I.D. 7990

The Director of the Intelligence Division presents
his own letters to the Under Secretary of State for the
Colonies and begs to return herewith Copies of War
Diaries from the S.O.C. East Africa, - 27 Jan. and
28 Jan. - 16 Feb. 1916, which were forwarded for the
second time to this Division on the 17th instant.

Admiralty War Staff,
Intelligence Division.

27th May, 1916