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475

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Nairobi, Mombasa,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

SECRET

28th November 1916.

Sir,

See 626

With reference to my Secret despatch of the 20th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith for your information, a copy of a Resume of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief's War Diary from October 7 to October 20 1916.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

A. Conway Beckett

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

A. BONAR LAW, M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

EAST AFRICAN FORCE.

476

RESUME OF WAR DIARY 7th to 20th October (inclusive).

7th October. Deserters who have arrived at General Northey's Camp state the enemy still intend to concentrate in the Mahenge District.

Portuguese Patrols are reported to have occupied Massassi.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief informed the War Office that he has inspected route from Kilossa towards Njukwa Drift and has found 30 miles of swamp which will require heavy engineering work to make passable during the rains. Troops passing along this will be cut off once the rain starts. Kissaki and Rufiji can be ruled out as far as operations go. In view of this and sickness amongst men he doubts whether the final advance can be begun till after the beginning of January. Meanwhile Northey is being reinforced with a strong battalion.

8th October. German prisoners from Wintgen's Force state he will try and force a way through our lines near Iringa and join up with Kraut. Desertions are frequent in his force.

9th October: Our Intelligence Department is of opinion that to place Wintgen's Force with 1,000 rifles would be a generous estimate.

The Jhinds (250 Rifles and 2 M.Gs.) were ordered to attack Kissangire, 50 miles S.W. of Dar-es-Salaam. The attack commenced at 10 a.m., but owing to the enemy's position - which was a fort surrounded by high walls on top of a conical hill - we were forced to retire at 2 p.m., having lost in killed two whites and one Indian officer, nine other ranks; twenty-six ranks wounded and eight ranks missing. Enemy's strength believed to be 27 whites and 35 askaris. The behaviour of our troops

troops was excellent.

10th October. The General Officer Commanding 2nd Division, whilst pointing out the necessity of vigorous operations towards Iringa before the rainy season, states that the road will probably take a month to construct.

Rainfall in Iringa area is reported at 2 inches for November and 10 inches in December.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief is now of opinion that a move before the beginning of November is impossible.

11th October. The General Officer Commanding 2nd Division reports a patrol action near Jumba resulted in the killing of one enemy askari and the capture of three porters.

Seven Indian prisoners who have escaped from Tabora have arrived at Itigi.

Communication established with Lake Detachment.

12th October. Intelligence Department reports the presence of 200 whites and 450 askaris at Iringa.

Our patrols report that main body of enemy's Tabora Force was at Uwambara on the 6th instant moving along the Msombe and Kisigo Rivers.

The General Officer Commanding 2nd Division reports that his patrols got in touch with a small observation party from General Northey's force on the 6th instant.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief has informed the War Office that owing to the necessity for reliable and rapid communication with Kilwa he has arranged with the Eastern Telegraph Company to link up Kilwa with the Zanzibar-Mozambique Cable.

13th October. The enemy Tabora force is reported to be moving in two columns towards Iringa and north of that place.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief has advised

General

Northey
 General, that, if the enemy force from Tabora make the pressure too great in direction of Iringa, he should concentrate with transport line via Luembe. The danger of early interruption of telegraph line is pointed out.

14th October. The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief informed the War Office that the German force retiring from Tabora is retiring in two columns towards Iringa. One between 300 and 400 strong has reached Kisilva, where road Kilimatinde and Iringa crosses the Great Ruaha, whilst the advance guard of the other and stronger column has occupied Kiganga. The 7th South African Infantry is being despatched when 400 strong with two guns via Njukwa's Drift to join General Northey at Iringa. Pressure on Northey is increasing from the East at Muhanga and further South on the Ruhudje River. Furthermore the Commander-in-Chief is arranging for a new battalion to reinforce Northey from the Union of South Africa.

A Column of ours operating from Kilwa engaged the enemy at Njinga on the 9th instant, capturing a machine gun and 5 askaris. Enemy further lost 5 whites and 16 askaris killed and captured.

15th October. Mkalama was occupied by us on the 13th and several prisoners taken.

The Commander-in-Chief has informed the War Office that owing to wastage from sickness he has decided to abolish the 3rd Division and amalgamate the Mounted Brigades and place them under the 2nd Division.

The Commander-in-Chief telegraphed to General Gil, the Portuguese Commander, urging him to occupy Massassi, Bangalla, and Tunduru at an early date and to move some of his force to Mbemkuru River in the direction of Liwale.

Two German whites, 6 askaris, 32 rifles, and a large quantity

quantity of rupees were captured at Mkalama on the 13th.

War Office was informed that the Lake Command is to be abolished.

Owing to scarcity of food in the Tabora district, General Tombeur intends to evacuate brigade towards Kigoma.

17th October. Quiet on all fronts.

General Gil reports that a Column is moving from Chichira by Newale to Massasi.

18th October. Kibata was occupied on the 14th instant by a force operating from Kilwa.

2nd Division reports that the 7th S. A. Infantry and section of guns has arrived at Njukwa's and that Colonel Taylor's Column consisting of 8th S.A. Infantry, 17th Infantry, and section of guns will reach Dodoma on 21st from where they will proceed to Iringa.

19th October. Our patrols report that the two Tabora Columns had effected a junction at Idodi on the 17th.

All fronts reported quiet.

20th October. Our patrols were in touch with the enemy at Irolo on the 18th and captured two whites with porters and signalling outfit.

2nd Division reports that 7th S.A. Infantry at Njukwa's has been ordered to push through with all speed to Iringa in view of enemy's movements in the vicinity of that place.

Cyclist Corps are operating on Dodoma-Iringa road and have been instructed to gain touch with Northey. Patrols came in touch with the enemy on the 17th and 18th, capturing 3 whites, 3 askaris, and 9 porters. Our casualties, 2 wounded.

Throughout the fortnight for which this resume covers, nothing has occurred in the Kiasaki, Druumi, Tulo front. This area is being held by the 1st Division, whose line is North of the Mgeta River. The country is all high elephant grass and swamp and generally very unhealthy.

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