

Rec'd
Jan 13 1917

EAST AFR. PROT
2542

16/17
~~17/17~~

For
Self used
1916
8 Dec

Last previous Paper
2541 16/17

German East Africa
War Diaries

Sends to me diary of P.O. in
Chief for period October 1916

see 2541
see 2541
see 2541

Not very much that is new in
these two installments, but the
entries in 2542 dealing with
breaking through of the enemy
columns from Tabora are rather
interesting.

Some papers wanted.
Copy of 2541 + this do.
Army LF?

W.A. 49 14/17
15.117

copy to be made 15/11/17

Next subsequent Paper.

3995/16
17

2/17

at 15/11/17

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Nairobi, Mombasa,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

SECRET.

8th December 1916.

Sir,

With reference to my Secret despatch of the 28th ultimo, 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 21 to November 3 1916.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Alonzo B. ...

GOVERNOR.

RIGHT HONOURABLE

A. BONAR LAW, M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

(Copy).

2542

ENCLOSURE 165
1. Dec. 1916

East African Force.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY from 21st October to 3rd
November 1916 (inclusive).

21st October 1916. Freeth's Column (7th S.A. Infantry and section guns) has left Game and should arrive at Iringa not later than 24th instant.

General Hannington has been informed that a considerable enemy force is reported to have left Mgeta Front for Niakisiki and to look for an attack on Kibata and Njinga.

The Portuguese Commander states that he will proceed to Nangadi and Newale to hasten on the advance of his column to Masasasi. From a strength of 5,800 at beginning of operations this force is reduced to less than 3,000.

Von Lettow is reported to have visited Mahenge about the 5th instant.

Intelligence Section reports that an action took place on 19th instant near Makapira in which a motor machine gun party of ours engaged an enemy force of 20 German whites and 200 German blacks. The enemy casualties were six, ours two.

22nd October. With reference to War Diary of the 12th instant, cable laying will commence from Kilwa on the 25th instant.

The Portuguese Force which was to have operated towards Lake Nyassa is returning, being considered unnecessary in view of recent advance of British troops. This Force will be despatched against Makondis.

It has been suggested to General Gil that Portuguese troops operating towards Masasasi, Lukuledi, and Bangalla should prevent scattered enemy parties gathering supplies in this area.

23rd October. With reference to War Diary of the 21st instant, it

is reported that Freeth left Rugaro at 4 o'clock and arrived at Iringa at 8 o'clock this morning.

Intelligence Section reports that our patrols came in touch with enemy scouts on the Kisanga-Iringa road on the 21st instant.

24th October. The Column under Colonel Taylor, consisting of 8th S.A. Infantry, 17th Infantry, section of guns and armoured car battery, arrived at Dodoma and will proceed to Iringa when boots are issued to troops.

Advance guard of S.A.M.C.C. has gained touch with a post of General Northey's, 20 miles South of Ruaha River, and is moving with 100 rifles and two Lewis guns to Iringa to-day.

25th October. Intelligence Section reports that Wintgen's and Wahle's forces have placed themselves astride the Iringa-Malangali road near Wuasa. They attacked our post at Ngominji on 23rd instant but were repulsed. The attack was renewed on the 24th but the result is unknown at present.

Kraut's Forces on the Ruhudji have been attacking our position there since the 21st instant but result is also unknown.

25th October. The majority of Tabora enemy force broke through between Alt Iringa and Ingominji on the night of 22nd/23rd, severing communication with General Northey. Rodgers, leaving a post at Alt Iringa, pushed on on the 22nd towards Ngominji and was held up eight miles North of the latter place. Freeth relieved Rodgers' force at Alt Iringa and has moved on from Alt Iringa to join forces with Rodgers and is now reported to be held up South of that place. The enemy are evidently holding the road between Rodgers and Freeth.

A detachment of the 4th S.A. Horse, moving down the Dodoma-Iringa road, were heavily engaged on the 25th instant,

12 miles North of the latter place, but managed to beat off the enemy with a loss to us of killed four, wounded one, missing two. They have now arrived at Iringa and report that the enemy suffered considerably.

A corporal of Colonel Baxendale's Force, who has arrived at Iringa, reports the latter's party to have been surprised and captured. This is not yet confirmed.

The portion of Rodgers' force at Ngominji, which has been repeatedly attacked, is in touch by wireless and report themselves to be alright. Owing to the destruction of telegraphs the situation generally is very obscure at present.

24th October. Rhodesian askaris, escaped from hostilities and state that Colonel Baxendale, with 4 Europeans, 36 askaris, and one machine gun were surprised by enemy. Baxendale was wounded and the European mixed. 33 askaris were killed or captured and the machine gun was lost.

25th October. Governor Schnee is reported to be again in the Lindi Area.

Intelligence Section reports that on General Northey's front the position on the Ruhudji River seems to be that the enemy, estimated at 1,200 rifles and 2 field guns, having failed in their attacks since 21st instant, have now taken up a position facing us.

28th October. The General Officer Commanding 2nd Division telegraphs that Fairweather reports situation on the 28th as follows :-

Freeth's Column at Weru, moving to join up with Rodgers, to attempt the relief of Ngominji. Our guns at the latter place were heard for six hours. Our forces there are not in touch by wireless.

Fairweather now holds line of left bank Kilen River from Alt Iringa North to Great Ruaha River.

General Tombeur states that Wintgen's Column abandoned

at Kitunda Mission 21 military Europeans and about 100 blacks, sick and wounded. These are being evacuated to Tabora.

Railway is running between Ujiji and Malagarasi.

Intelligence Section reports that on General Northey's front details of the engagement on the Dodoma-Iringa road, 12 miles North of Iringa, are to hand. An enemy force of two companies with three machine guns under von Langen, based on Tjamlowa, came into conflict with a column of our troops near Mlewa on the 25th instant. The enemy's losses were one German white and 12 German blacks killed, three German whites and forty German blacks wounded and captured, including the officer commanding the 1st Field Company. Enemy retired in a westerly direction over the Ridge de Ruaha.

30th October. Iringa Area. - Fairweather, telegraphing on the 28th instant, states that from information available Rogers may have whole Tabora force concentrated against him. His telegram dated 29th he states that Rogers reports that Ngominyi was entered by the enemy at daylight on the morning of the 29th and that his column is opposed by enemy in strength with three guns at Madibira. What has happened to the garrison of Ngominyi is unknown.

Prisoners state that large enemy forces from Mahenge, Liwale, and Kitanda are making for Songea, which is expected to be reached by the end of November.

In a telegram dated 30th Fairweather reports Freeth and Rodgers to be concentrated near Mhansi Ridge, and that the post at Magatapesten has been ordered to join hands with force at Lukageta and stand fast there.

G.O.C. 2nd Division has ordered the G.O.C. 2nd Mounted Brigade to despatch 500 men and 2 maxims with all speed to Iringa from Morogoro as situation appears to be critical at the former place. This force will leave Morogoro morning of 31st.

31st October. Fairweather reports on the 30th that enemy captured a convoy which had left Iringa for Freeth's Column that morning.

General Northey reports in a telegram dated 30th instant that Hawthorn attacked the enemy, entrenched on West bank of the Ruhudji River at dawn. He pushed in on one flank and drove the enemy across the river. Five Europeans and thirty-seven askaris were picked up dead on the field. Six whites, seventy-six askaris, one 6 cm. gun complete with 75 shells, 3 machine guns (two of which were undamaged), 15,000 rounds S.A.A., telephone and other material were captured. Our casualties seven killed, fourteen wounded.

2nd Division has telegraphed Fairweather that he views with grave concern the capture of Baxendale's party and post at Mgominji, and that Freeth is to be instructed to watch very carefully and if the enemy are seen to be in superior strength he must fall back on Iringa slowly to prevent himself being surrounded. A little later Freeth was instructed to force his way through to Iringa at all costs.

In a telegram received to-day, and dated 30th., Fairweather states Freeth reports himself surrounded and expects to be heavily attacked at dawn. Fairweather reports he is operating from Iringa as far as his resources will allow.

1st November. Lukegeta garrison ordered to move to Iringa.

Fairweather reports telegraph line repaired to Freeth, who states enemy attacked from North and East on 31st October and again this morning but was repulsed with heavy loss. Our casualties 15.

Cable referred to in War Diary of 22nd October completed, and Kilwa now in communication with Dar-es-Salaam via Zanzibar.

The G.O.C. 2nd Division was instructed to take command of Iringa area permanently.

2nd November. In the Kilwa area Mpotozo was reported empty by a patrol who killed three German whites and five askaris. Another patrol captured one German white and two askaris. No casualties on our side.

3rd November. Intelligence report that on General Northey's front 70 German whites and 200 German blacks passed through Madibira going towards Ngominji on 28th ultimo.