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Office

German East Africa 214

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v. 17

Telegram from General Aitken as to disposition of troops and possible ways of resuming the offensive

Previous Paper.

5386

See Bottom Telegram from Sir J. Fisher

This is rather out of date (Nov 9th) and contains nothing of great interest.

Put by?

W.L.S. 18/11/14

Esq. 18/11/14

The J.O. ~~has not~~ do not consider it worth while to ask Gen. A. to repeat the complete passages, as they have info regarding the distribution of troops in other tels. H. J. D. 18/11/14

But suggest tel to Zanzibaris asking my Peace to explain his reasons for his urgent request for Indian troops? H. J. D. 18.11.14
H. J. D. 18.11.14
18.11.14

Telegram from Sir J. Fisher (18.11.14)

Subsequent Paper.

4547

copy of telegram.

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FROM GENERAL AITKEN,
9th November 1914.

S.2?reference telegram No. 1382

from London received 7th November. Have consulted
(authorities)
Stewart also local and naval and have made following
dispositions for the defence of Protectorate.

British Infantry 28th Mountain Battery to Nairobi;

1/2 Battalion Kashmir Rifles and Faridkot Sappers to

Voi.....

one battalion Kashmir Rifles to Gazi.....13th Rajputs

to Uganda to replace Uganda troops employed in

Protectorate. 25th and 26th Ry. Cos. to guar whole

railway. Armoured train to section Nairobi-Lake.

101st remains here also 61st 93rd and 98th. Rampur

and Gwalior Contingent details to Zanzibar at urgent

request of Resident; both unreliable but intact.

Political reasons (make it?) (desirable) to keep them

on service and they are quite safe there. 61st, 65rd

and 98th useless and two former particularly so.

Strongly

Strongly recommend early return to India and their
being replaced by two thoroughly reliable units.

Am landing other details and stores here. Above
will insure safe defence of Protectorate. Shall
require 10 maxims and good supplies of equipment and
kit to complete above units selected to remain. As
regards offensive action will require at least two
full Brigadesof..... thoroughl reliable troops
in addition to troops required (for) communications
outposts etc. If this can be supplied might advance
to Taveta but this owing to water scarcity.....

..... out.

Tenga difficult and can easily be made very much
more so; entrance channel not difficult to obstruct,
country very thick terrain very concealed and all defences..

.....
very difficult often impossible, landings bad.

Could be successfully attacked if considered worth it
but would entail large naval support and heavy losses.

Dur-es-Saleam not known, but as full strength (of)

Germans

Germans reported to be in Moshi area, this might be possibly captured more easily. If defensive operations only decided on, Commands and staff all B Force available employment elsewhere if desired, as Stewart and his staff quite enough.

Sent to India Office, Chief of I.G.S. and C. of S. India.

45387/14

Substance sent 5.0 p.m.
19.11.14

Mr Telesman
(Cypher)

Resident,
Zanzibar

Exp 10/11/14

As. Stanley 19/11/14

W. Read 19



November 19 219

Understand that
you have sent
urgent requests to
General aithen for
25. reinforcements of
Indian troops at
Zanzibar. Should
be glad if you
would explain to
me your reasons
for this.

Transect

Telegram. The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the
British Resident, Zanzibar.

(Sent 5 p.m. 19th November 1914).

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November 19th.

Understand that you have sent urgent requests
to General Aitken for reinforcements of Indian troops
at Zanzibar. Should be glad if you would explain to
me your reasons for this.

HARCOURT.