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1915  
8 May

Last previous Paper.  
m. 6  
281675

German East Africa

Forwards was Diary for  
period April to 4 - 30

for ~~B. K. ...~~ Fr. G. Fidler  
for ~~Read~~

This is full and interesting,  
but at the same time rather  
disquieting as it shows that  
the Germans are quite able  
and prepared to carry on a  
... offensive along the frontier.  
Note in particular the German  
activity along the Kagera  
frontier and the two raids on  
the Uganda Railway.

I have marked some passages  
and attach a map.

Part 9

Next subsequent Paper.  
July 29 1915

AM 276

1915

Send the threat on Kijabe -  
between Nairobi - Nairobi. 6/28 20/15  
Part 9? Equ 20/15  
P. J. ...

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

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EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

8th May 1915.

SECRET.

Sir,

With reference to my Secret despatch of the  
15th ultimo, I have the honour to forward for your  
information copy of the G. O. S.'s War Diary from  
10th to 30th April 1915.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

*Alonso Bayard.*

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
LEWIS HARCOURT, M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.

ENCLOSURE

In Dispatch ~~Secret~~ of 8 May 1915

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(COPY).

SECRET.

No. 215-0/83.

Command Headquarters, B.E.A. & U.,  
Nairobi,  
19th April 1915.

From

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

To

The Private Secretary to His Excellency  
the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, B.E.A.

sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a Resume  
of my War Diary, from the 10th to the 16th April  
1915 inclusive, for the information of His Excellency  
and the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. DE C. O'GRADY, Major,  
for Major General,  
Commanding Troops, B.E.A. & U.

Copy forwarded for information to :-

The Chief Secretary to Government, Uganda.  
His Excellency The Naval Commander-in-Chief, Cape of Good  
Brigadier General Malleon, C.I.E. Hope.  
The Senior Naval Officer, Victoria Nyansa.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

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RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

10th April 1915. All is reported quiet on the border.

11th April. Permission has been accorded by the War Office to make a demand on India for 10 miles of 3" water pipe in connection with the construction of the Voi-Maktau line.

On the Coast it is reported that 3 companies are between Jasin and Tanga; that trains run on the Usambara railway once a week.

An estimate by an Intelligence Officer of the hostile strength of the Germans in the Kilimanjaro District is 3,400 rifles, 13 guns, and 20 machine guns; but this estimate should be accepted with caution.

Our forces on the Tave are now concentrated at Mzima.

In Uganda the enemy's main concentration is at Bagalulu in Ruanda.

It appears that last month, in consequence of the reported Belgian concentration, German troops were moving from Bukoba to Bwanga but these have now been moved back again.

12th April. General Malleon has arrived at Fort Portal on his return journey from the Congo.

Major Walker, 40th Punjabis, attached to 130th Baluchis, was attacked and killed by the Germans while engaged in reconnaissance work near Mzima.

The withdrawal of the troops from Longido has been completed without incident.

The Masai are reported to have taken their  
enforced

enforced move very philosophically.

It is clear that considerable forces have been moved recently from the Coast and also from the central railway; these are now on the Usambara railway, which is the main point of concentration of the German forces in German East Africa.

A force of the enemy estimated at about 100 rifles recently attempted to cross the Kagera River at Nsongesi Ferry.

13th April. A telegram received from the War Office explaining that General Wapshare had been transferred to Persia, that being a more active sphere of operations.

Payment for services of askaris, porters, &c., in paper money in German East Africa is causing discontent.

One of our patrols was ambushed near Mzima yesterday morning; Major Walker, 46th Punjabis, attached to 130th Baluchis, unfortunately lost his life in the affair.

A hostile force of 1,500 rifles and 4 machine guns is reported to be opposite Kiasambi, on the Kagera. This report is probably exaggerated.

A report has been received from the Officer Commanding Turkhana Expedition which shows that considerable and successful progress is being made.

From German East African papers it appears that the European population of the Colony is 5,919, of whom 2,000 are women and children. 4,206 are Germans and Austrians, 35 Swiss, 62 Boers, 208 Greeks, and 65 Italians.

14th April. It is reported that a Sepoy of the 130th Baluchis (a Pathan) deserted with his rifle and ammunition from Isavo.

The first consignment of Belgian ammunition has arrived at Fort Portal. The Uganda Government has arranged to forward the convoy as the Belgians themselves are unable to supply porters.

From Nyassaland a report is received giving the enemy in the South-West of German East Africa at 150 Europeans, 1,500 askaris (native soldiers), 7 guns, and 5 machine guns.

It is reported also that 125 Europeans are marching on Bismarckburg from Tabora.

There are 200 Belgian Europeans with 1,200 askaris, 3 guns, and 10 machine guns between Pife and Abercorn.

The 'Konigsberg' has not moved her position in the Rufigi Delta; she is lying partly on her side in 10 ft. of water.

The situation of the Masai near the German border is somewhat peculiar; they appear to have the run of both the German camps and cows. They appear to give neither side any information, as we know that on two occasions they have refrained from 'giving away' two of our small camps, and they certainly have not given us much information regarding the Germans in their district.

15th April. General Wapshare left for Bombay en route for the Persian Gulf.

General Tighe assumes command with temporary rank of Major General. He left for Voi and Gasi.

The Rampur Infantry, although they have only been on the Coast for one month, are reported as medically unfit to march from Masambweni to Mombasa (some 35 miles). They are a useless encumbrance.

16th April. The Rhodesian Contingent has been transferred from Kajiado to Maktau and Maima.

There is much German activity in the neighbourhood of Maima.

In the Lake area rinderpest has broken out in the Usukuma district.

German official news is regularly received by wireless at Tabora.

(COPY).

SECRET.

No. 215-0/88.

522

Command Headquarters, B.E.A. & U.,

Nairobi,

27th April 1915.

From

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

To

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

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a Resume  
of my War Diary, from the 18th to the 24th April  
1915 inclusive, for the information of His Excellency  
and the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

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

For Major General,

Commanding the Troops, B.E.A. & U.

Copy forwarded for information to :-

The Chief Secretary to Government, Uganda.  
His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Cape of Good  
The Senior Naval Officer, Victoria Nyansa. Hope.



RESUME OF WAR DIARY.

18th April 1915. A telegram No. 4086 received from War Office asking General Tighe for his appreciation of the present situation.

All reported quiet from the frontier.

19th April. There is a continued scarcity of intercepted wireless news owing to the fact that the Germans have changed their code and the new code has not yet been deciphered.

Lieut. Col. Vickers, 63rd Palamcottah Light Infantry, has proceeded to Tsavo to assume command of the Tsavo-Mgima line.

A letter was received from General Malleon urging every assistance being given to the Belgians to enable them to obtain command of Lake Tanganyika; this would enable them to attack Ujiji, and thence operate towards Tabora, in conjunction with our general advance.

Reports from German East Africa show that many Europeans have been allowed to return to their farms. This confirms supposition that the enemy do not expect such activity from us at present.

A spy of the 46th Infantry is reported to have deserted from Tsavo; he was apprehended near Tsavo on the 16th.

The body of one of our Europeans killed in the Mgima patrol affair was mutilated in the manner in vogue amongst our transborder Pathans in India.

In the Eastern Lake area, Hexthausen is reported to have been reinforced to some 50 Europeans and 400 black troops. He is South of the

Mara River, on which boats are being collected with a view to crossing towards our frontier.

The tug 'Mwanza' is reported to have been taken up the Mwanza Gulf and is obviously unseaworthy.

20th April. General Tighe's appreciation sent to the War Office; it coincides in its essentials with the appreciation forwarded by General Wapshare through Lieut. Col. Ward. It emphasised the fact that a minimum of 1½ Brigades as reinforcements would be required to effect successful results in future operations against German East Africa.

A report was received of a very large increase to Hexthausen's force having been received; in consequence 4 companies Loyal North Lancs. and 1 company King's African Rifles with 1 section Mountain Artillery and 1 machine gun section have been sent to Karungu.

A bridge on the railway near Makindu was damaged at 1.30 p.m. by a German patrol; the damage, although it necessitated a diversion, was inconsiderable.

Further precautionary measures have been taken for the defence of the railway.

21st April. All quiet at Zanzibar and the Coast.

Germans are showing some activity on the Uganda border and in the Eastern Lake area.

It is reported that the enemy are making efforts to raise the 'Sybil'.

It is considered that a German advance on Mbarara is unlikely and that the Belgian estimate

of the troops moving East from Ruanda is exaggerated.

A request for two 6" Howitzers has been made to India.

22nd April. His Excellency the Governor, General Tighe, and General Stewart proceeded to Kajiado to inspect the Movable Column there and the garrison of Bissil.

Five girders in all of the bridge damaged by the Germans will have to be replaced. Meantime a diversion is being constructed.

The strength of the German patrol is estimated at 4 whites and 2 or 3 askaris; our bridge guard was 1 N.C.O. and 3 men. All the guards are now being greatly increased.

A change of policy by the Germans towards the natives has lately become very noticeable. They appear to treat all natives now with leniency, especially in the Kilimanjaro and Coast areas.

Another proclamation signed by the Governor of German East Africa is being posted for the benefit of our Mahomedans. It enjoins all true Mahomedans to be friendly to the Germans.

23rd April. There is proving to be plenty of water and grazing for the Masai cattle.

A small skirmish has been reported from the Tsavo line.

24th April. General Tighe and party returned to Nairobi.

A Court of Enquiry is being held into the circumstances under which the damage to the railway bridge, near Makindu, occurred.

The Belgian Government has asked if British East Africa can give them 60 mules; this has been found to be impossible.

An unofficial, though reliable, report has been received that a German collier attempting to run the blockade North of Tanga was destroyed by one of our warships. About 50 of the crew got ashore, but the cargo was lost.

More pan-Islamic proclamations are being scattered about for the benefit of our troops. This time in the vicinity of Mgima.

In Uganda a German cattle raiding party in Rushenyi lifted 250 head of cattle after suffering some loss.

The latest estimate of the German machine guns in German East Africa is not more than 60.

(COPY).

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SECRET.

No. 215-0/93.

Command Headquarters, B.E.A. & U.,

Nairobi,

5th May 1915.

From

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

To

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

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a Resume  
of my War Diary, from the 25th to the 30th April  
1915 inclusive, for the information of His Excellency  
and the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. DE G. O'GRADY, Major,  
for Major General,  
Commanding Troops in B.E.A. & U.

Copy forwarded for information to :-

The Chief Secretary to Government, Uganda.  
H.M. The Naval Commander-in-Chief, Cape of Good Hope.  
The Senior Naval Officer, Victoria Nyansa.

25th April 1915. General Malleison returned from the Congo on the 23rd.

Sir William Johns arrived in Nairobi to discuss question of getting material to extend railway to Taveta when required. In consultation with him it was decided to ask the War Office for sanction to a demand on India for another 30 miles of permanent way to take the line from Maktau to Taveta. The suggestion was also put forward that it would be advisable to be prepared to sanction and obtain another 20 miles to connect up with Moshi later.

26th April. General Malleison's proposals for co-operation with the Belgians were sent to the War Office.

Briefly the suggestions are :-

(i) The Belgians to obtain command of Lake Tanganyika, transport a large force to attack Ujiji, and thence advance on Tabora, at the same time that we were attacking elsewhere.

(ii) The Belgian forces in Northern and Southern Congo to operate separately. The efforts of the former would be directed against Kigali, and thence via Bukoba to Mwanza. From this last place an advance would be attempted against Tabora; in this case the transport difficulties would be enormous.

The former plan was very strongly recommended.

There is no doubt that unrest exists among the Mahomedan population in British East Africa, especially at Mombasa and on the Coast. An effort is to be made to combat this, and it has been suggested that the Sultan of Zanzibar should be asked to write a note

on the subject of the relations between Germany and Islam to which wide publicity would be given. He has already written one note, which was read out in Mombasa to a representative audience, but the impression given was not quite what was wanted.

At Mafia and Zanzibar all is quiet.

In the skirmish which occurred on the 24th 150 of the enemy were driven from Signal Hill (Msima) after a short encounter.

Hexthausen continues to keep to the South of the Mara River.

It is reported that there are but 20 Europeans in Bukoba.

Scarcity of European food is reported in the South of German East Africa.

The latest estimate of German strength in German East Africa gives 2,500 whites, 6,400 native regulars, 4,500 levies and recruits, 53 guns, and about 60 machine guns.

27th April. Generals Tigher and Stewart, accompanied by H.E. the Governor and staffs, left for Uganda.

A letter giving fuller details of the proposed co-operation with the Belgians, referred to in yesterday's diary, was posted to the War Office.

A report was received that a German raiding party had fired on an up train, conveying native passengers and mules to Nairobi, at mile 192 at about 2 p.m. It is also reported that a culvert was damaged there.

28th April. Our aircraft is reported to be operating over the Rufigi Delta.

A steamer attempting to run the blockade of German East Africa was sunk by H.M.S. Hyacinth at the entrance of Mansa Bay.

The German raid on the train, reported yesterday, was not very successful. Two native coolies and 2 mules were killed and 5 coolies wounded. The train was undamaged, and the culvert only slightly so. Normal traffic has been resumed.

In consequence of the raid, which shows that the Germans are prepared to fire on and attempt to wreck trains, guards have been placed on all trains, and traffic through the dangerous section is confined to daylight.

The Maktau rail-head is now 8½ miles from the Vei crossing. There are 3,000 men (including 2,000 civilian coolies) at work on the line.

In Uganda the idea is prevalent among the natives of Rushanyi district that a large cattle raid is to be expected there.

One of our posts at Kasin, on the Kagera River, was attacked at dawn on the 26th. The garrison was driven off, and our camp burnt.

29th April. There are signs of a German gathering in the vicinity of Loosito; this may be directed against Mzima, and is probably being used as a base for operations against the railway.

A daily bulletin is now published in the local papers, a summary of it being telegraphed to Mombasa.

The town guard at Zanzibar is being reconstituted.

30th April. There is a possibility of a hostile raid against



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the railway in the vicinity of Kijabe. As a precautionary measure a party of mounted King's African Rifles have been sent up there to reconnoitre and return by road.

The question of using Europeans to guard Ordnance and Supply Depots at Mombasa is being considered.