

EAST AFR. PROT
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REC'D
REG'D 30 NOV 14

War Office

1914

28 Nov

and previous papers

46945 S

German East Africa

Considers that supplies should be made at Singapore, Shanghai, Hong Kong and in Australia, as to German recruits having left those places.

by Belmont
by Read

by G. Fisher

We were aware of Genl. Aitken's views - see his telegram in 44307 to which the two refer.

As the two press for it I suppose we had better telegraph to the Governor of the Straits & Hong Kong and the Governor General of Australia.

To (1) & (2) Genl. Fisher in East Africa

Protectorate is of opinion that German details from China were landed in German East Africa 1914

Genl. Fisher
Genl. Aitken
Genl. Read
Genl. Belmont

and previous papers

47393 S

Sample
Australia

petty officers, probably from steamer
 "Gibraltar" strength believed to be
 400. During August. Can you
 give any information as to this?
 Is it possible that German subjects
 left (1) Straits Settlements before
 (2) Hong Kong

Two receipt of my cipher telegram
 of August 7th enjoining detection
 of all enemy reservists? All possible
 info desired. Harcourt

To (3)

Secret. G.O.C. in East Africa
 Post. considers that German
 reservists from Australia, strength
 unknown, may have arrived in
 German East Africa ^{some other place} in August.
 Should be glad if you would
 inform me whether you have
 any information as to this
 and whether it is possible that
 any Germans left Australia for
 unknown destinations before my
 telegram of August 7th as to
 detection of enemy reservists
 was sent. Harcourt

Two should left to W.O. by

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sending them copies of these
telegrams and pointing out
that they must approach F.O.
as regards Shanghai.

Eqn 30/1/14

W.C.S. 30/1/14

H. J. R.

30/2/14

Sir
Superintendent

at all the J.
Muller

P. M. 30/1/14

SECRET.

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Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—

The Secretary.

War Office,

London, S.W.

and the following number quoted

0154/3820. (L.O.I.)

War Office,

London, S.W.

28th November 1914.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 46075/Secret, dated November 26th 1914, requesting observations thereon, I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you that in a telegram No. S 52 of November 10th, from General Aitken to the Secretary of State for India, the following passage occurs:-

" It is certain that German details from China were landed in German East Africa, mostly petty officers, probably from steamer "Ziethen", strength believed to be 400. Also believed that German reservists from Australia, strength unknown, are in German East Africa".

Under the circumstances the Council are of opinion that it is desirable that special enquiry should be made at Singapore, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and in Australia, for the purpose of verifying General Aitken's information. They have reason to believe that the white forces in the enemy's territory are larger than appeared to be the case from the report received before the outbreak of hostilities.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies,

Colonial Office, S.W.

Paraphrase.

Telegram. The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the

(1) Governor of the Straits Settlements.

(2) Governor of Hong Kong.

(Sent (1) 5.30
(2) 5.40 p.m. 30th November 1914).

Secret.

General Officer Commanding in East Africa Protectorate is of opinion that German details from China were landed in German East Africa, mostly petty officers, probably from steamer "Viethen", strength believed to be 400, during August. Can you give any information as to this. Is it possible that German subjects left (1) Straits Settlements before the receipt of my cypher telegram of August 24th enjoining detention of all enemy reservists? All available information desired.

MARGOURT.

Paraphrase.

Telegram. The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the
Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia.
(Sent 5.15 p.m. 30th November 1914).

Secret.

General Officer Commanding in East Africa
Protectorate considers that German reservists from
Australia, strength unknown, may have arrived in German
East Africa since outbreak of war. Should be glad if you
would inform me whether you have any information as to
this, and whether it is possible that any Germans left
Australia for unknown destinations before my telegram
of August 7th as to detention of enemy reservists was
sent.

HARCOURT.

47197/4

C. D.
1 DEC
1914

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Dec 1 1914

Secret
and
immediate

Sir,
I am etc. to act ⁱⁿ ~~the~~

of your secret letter
No. 258/3820 (H.A.S.)

dated
11 November, 1914
which refers to

the possibility of
many recruits
having reached German

East Africa since
the outbreak of war,

8 to forward to
for the info. of the H.C.,
you, [copies of telegrams

which have been
sent to the Governor
General of Australia

DRAFT

The Sec
too

MINUTE.

Mr. Egger 30/11/14

Mr. Bottrill 11/11/14

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Islington.

Mr. Harcourt.

To Sec. Gen. Australia 30 Nov

To Sec. of Defense 30 Nov

To Sec. Gen. Hong 30 Nov

and the Governors of
the Straits Settlements
& Hong Kong respectively
on this matter.

Shanghai is
not administered by
the Dept & it
will be necessary for
you to approach the
Govt with regard to
enquiries being
made there.

I am

L

H. J. R.

Trans. Dept

No copy yet from
Australia to our tel.
9:30 Dec. 21. 1912

Suppose

Mr. Mackley

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Mr. Mackley
to be for next
copy in the
with regard
L.H.
Jan 1913

Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]

I don't want to be in
the reply in w. A. Liberty to
be of any use. But
they expect to reply to
me too.

Leave it
unless we raise
the question

What is
the
[unclear]

[unclear]