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363

19th January 1915

The Director of Military Operations presents his compliments to *Under Secretary of State for the Colonies*

and begs to forward for his information a copy of

telegrams which have been received dealing with operations in *East Africa*, and replies sent.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.

(No. 166 S.)

14th January, 1915, 10.40 p.m.

Some fighting has occurred in the Uмба Valley where our post of Jasin was attacked on the morning of the 12th. The attack was repulsed, and the enemy retired followed for 2 miles. Our casualties were as follows:—1 Sahadar, 3 rank and file (Jirds) (†), and 1 private (Kashmiri) wounded. The enemy lost 1 German officer and 3 native soldiers found dead.

From Admiral Sir H. Jackson to Director of Military Operations.

(No. 112.)

14th January, 1915.

Reference telegram No. S. 154, dated 12th January, 1915, 11.40 a.m., from General Wapshare to War Office; and telegram No. M.O. 143, dated 13th January, 1915, from War Office to General Wapshare, Nairobi.

I think it advisable to draw your attention to two points—(1.) General Wapshare is depending on H.M.S. "Goliath" to cover the proposed landing at Tanga. It should be observed, however, that the Admiralty cannot guarantee that H.M.S. "Goliath" will be available. If General Wapshare's proposals are approved in due course, an endeavour will be made to ensure the presence of a cruiser with 6-inch guns, possibly H.M.S. "Hyacinth," for this purpose. See Admiralty telegram No. 21, dated 12th January, to the Commander-in-Chief, Cape Station, a copy of which I sent you to-day.

(2.) General Wapshare hopes that the landing force will be strengthened by 150 marines. This again, I fear, cannot be guaranteed; to provide such a force would require special arrangements, and I doubt very much whether the proposal would be found feasible.

From Director of Military Operations to Admiral Sir H. Jackson.

(No. 113.)

14th January, 1915.

In reply to your memorandum of this day's date on the subject of operations against Tanga, I have to inform you that it is not at present intended by the War Office to sanction an attack on that place. General Wapshare has been so informed.

Should it, however, be decided at a later date, that the enterprise ought to be taken in hand, a communication to that effect will be sent to the Admiralty. To carry out the operations successfully supporting gunfire from one of H.M. ships would be almost indispensable, and the assistance of 6-inch guns would be very welcome. The same applies to the presence of a force of Marines, but it is realized at the War Office that it would be difficult for the Admiralty to arrange for this.

In view of the fact that no strong reinforcements can be sent to East Africa and of the approach of the rainy season, it is unlikely that any important offensive operations will be undertaken for some months. The War Office, however, anticipates good results from the close blockade of the coast which is being organized, and towards establishing which the capture of Mafia Island will no doubt contribute.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.

(No. S. 168.)

15th January, 1915, 12.55 p.m.

Reference your telegrams Nos. 2747 and 2753, 14th January. The force detailed for expedition to Mafia was as follows:—4 companies King's African Rifles, 1 machine-gun section, and 1 double company 101st Grenadiers, accompanied by H.M.S. "Fox" and conveyed in armed steamer "Kinfauns Castle." Landing was effected on 10th January without opposition. The strength of enemy as then reported was 6 Europeans and 40 natives Ngambani. On morning of 11th we attacked, and after an action of 2 hours occupied the enemy's position. Our casualties were—Major Seames and Lieutenant Joyce severely wounded, Captain Giffard slightly wounded, rank and file 8 wounded, all King's African Rifles. Bombardment of enemy casualties—German Commandant wounded and captured, 1 native soldier killed and 1 wounded. The Expeditionary Force having been removed, 1 double company of 63rd left in occupation.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.

(No. S. 169.)

15th January, 1915, 5.40 p.m.

I have received the following telegram from the Chief of the General Staff, India, and I shall be glad if you will telegraph stating whether you agree

"No. S. 907. 14th January. We are prepared to send a squadron of 17th Cavalry if War Office approves."

From War Office to Commander-in-Chief, India.

(No. M.O. 146.)

16th January, 1915.

Please refer to telegram No. S. 907, 14th January, from Chief of the General Staff, India, to Wapshare. Apparently Wapshare has been communicating direct with India unknown to me. I shall be very glad to have 17th Cavalry for service in East Africa. If you can spare that regiment.

From War Office to Major-General Wapshare, Nairobi.

(No. 2762, cipher. M.S. 1, India.)

16th January, 1915, 11.50 a.m.

Please cable stating whether you can spare Major Lubbock, Royal Engineers, whose services are urgently required as he is thoroughly conversant with the working of European railways. There would appear to be no necessity to send another Engineer officer in his place nor can one now be spared.

From Commander-in-Chief, India, to War Office.

(No. S. 1110.)

16th January, 1915, 1.45 p.m.

Headquarters and 3 double companies of 130th Baluchis will sail on 24th January from Rangoon in hired transport "Thongwa." They should reach Mombasa on 8th February.

On 25th January 1 double company 46th Punjabis will sail from Bombay in either "Nilra" or "Bamora." They should reach Mombasa on 6th February. Will send later information as to numbers by classes.

From War Office to Major-General Wapshare, Nairobi.

(No. M.O. 147.)

17th January, 1915.

Following cable received from India:—"Headquarters and 3 double companies 130th Baluchis sail 24th January from Rangoon, should reach Mombasa 8th February. On 25th January 1 double company 46th Punjabis sail from Bombay, should reach Mombasa 6th February."

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.

(No. S. 172.)

17th January, 1915, 9.35 a.m.

With reference to your telegram No. 2762 of 16th instant. This has been sent to Chief of General Staff, India, as Major Lubbock left Mombasa in the "Karmala" for India on 16th December.

From War Office to Major-General Wapshare.

(No. 2775, cipher. F. 1.)

17th January, 1915, 7.10 p.m.

With reference to your telegram of 15th December, you should give the Governor the best rough estimates possible of the expenditure on local forces, separately from the Indian forces. Each demand for stores, &c., should show roughly, subject to ultimate allocation, how much is for the local, and how much for the Indian, forces.

From the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

17th January, 1915.

Information received from General Officer Commanding as follows:—Following received from Officer Commanding at Umba, dated 12th January. Message received from Officer Commanding Jassin, reporting enemy in force. Subsequently found that about 600 enemy with three machine guns had advanced from south-west, occupied Sisal factory. Strong patrol of one company daily sent Jassin, arrived before action commenced and assisted in its defence. Captain MacBrayne with two companies Jhind was sent in support Jassin and two companies with machine guns ordered from Simanya. Owing to interruption of telegraph Simanya column did not leave for half an hour. MacBrayne found enemy near Sisal factory being held in check by half company King's African Rifles, who formed part of early patrol. MacBrayne gave support, subsequently driving back enemy, carried factory. Meanwhile Captain Bulton's section Mountain Battery having taken correct range Sisal factory and vicinity previously opened fire on enemy in that direction. Owing to which and MacBrayne's advance enemy retired in a south-westerly direction. 1 o'clock MacBrayne having waited got into touch with Simanya Column made combined forward movement about 2 miles, found enemy returned. Our casualties were: Jhind, wounded, one Subedar, three rank and file, Kashmir, wounded, one. Enemy's casualties, nothing known accurately. One German officer, three rank and file found dead. Information obtained from reliable sources, total strength of enemy Duga, 1,050. Another message received dated 13th January. Strong patrols sent from all posts in direction of Duga, no signs of enemy.