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✓ 26.1.15

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407

The Director of Military Operations presents his compliments to
The Under Secretary of State
Colonial Office

and begs to forward for his information a copy of
Telegrams
sent and
which have been received dealing with

East Africa

407
for
D.O.

Jan 23rd

From War Office to Major-General Wapshare, Nairobi

(No. M O 151)

22nd January, 1915.

Your No. S. 157, 13th January; our No. 2753, cipher, 14th January; your No. S. 176 and 177, 19th January; your No. 352, O.D., 20th January. It is not at all clear what your proposals are for raising additional forces and for whom 500 rifles mentioned in last-named telegram are required. Please clear the matter up. We have a considerable number of mausers available which can be placed at your disposal for armament of any additional force which can be raised. But 303-inch rifles cannot be spared.

From Senior Naval Officer, East Africa, to Admiralty.

21st January, 1915, 3.15 p.m.

General Officer Commanding earnestly desires retention of "Weymouth" at Wange for shelling strong German position. Portable wireless installation landed. Spotting conducted by Commander from headquarters of army. Range, 6,600; practice satisfactory to General Officer Commanding. Spotting from ship absolutely impossible owing to thick scrub. General Wapshare arrived to-day for conference. "Pyramus" reports all quiet at Rufigi. German officer prisoner of war.

Referring to my telegram 17th January, inform(ed) Officer Commanding, Zanzibar, that "Neubridge" apparently swung so as to allow "Königsberg" to come out high tide. Naval prisoners are believed to be at Tabora or at Morogoro, and all well.

Repeated to Commander-in-Chief, Cape of Good Hope, and Commander-in-Chief East Indies.

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

(No. S. 1498)

22nd January, 1915, 1.15 p.m.

On 19th January the hospital ship "Madras" left Bombay for Mombasa.

From Major-General Wapshare to War Office.

(No. 12213)

20th January, 1915, 3.25 p.m.

Your No. 2775, cipher, F. 1, received and I am taking steps to work out arrangements.

From Earl Kitchener to Major-General Wapshare.

(No. 2810, cipher. M.O. 150.)

21st January, 1915, 2.40 p.m.

With reference to your telegrams, No. S. 175, No. S. 182, of the 19th instant, and No. S. 183 of the 20th, I think that you ought to concentrate your forces more and give up risky expeditions that may lead to a serious situation being created in East Africa where we cannot reinforce you sufficiently to be sure of success. You are entirely mistaken in supposing that offensive operations are necessary; the experience of Japan shows that you are not well informed of the strength of the enemy, and that this casual scattered fighting is liable to bring about a dangerous situation.