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German East Africa

Telegraphic correspondence as  
to operations

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SECRET*From War Office to General Officer Commanding, South Africa.*

(No. 6419, cipher M.O. 1.)

21st July, 1915, 4 p.m.

Are you able to spare 1 captain and 1 subaltern, Royal Garrison Artillery, and 20 other ranks for detachment for two 5.4 in. howitzers for service in East Africa? Captain will be in command of four howitzers and we are asking Mauritius to supply personnel for two. Further particulars later.

*From War Office to General Officer Commanding, Mauritius.*

(No. 6419, cipher M.O. 1.)

21st July, 1915, 4.10 p.m.

Are you able to spare 1 captain and 1 subaltern, Royal Garrison Artillery, and 20 other ranks for detachment for two 5.4 in. howitzers for service in East Africa? Further particulars later.

*From General Officer Commanding, South Africa, to War Office.*

(No. 6248.)

22nd July, 1915.

With reference to your telegram of 18th July. Provided you authorize replacement of a killed or injured regular member of the Garrison Artillery at Union rate of pay, I will be pleased to forward the same to you. Webber, Lieutenant Hamilton and the detachment of about 20 men from the Garrison Artillery. I shall be reduced to 100 men and experienced officers.

*From War Office to Major General Tughe.*

(No. 6420, cipher M.O. 1.)

22nd July, 1915, 3.30 p.m.

If he is promoted to the command of a battalion of his regiment, can you spare Lieut. Colonel Mackay?

*From General Officer Commanding, Mauritius to War Office.*

24th July, 1915.

Your No. 6420, cipher M.O. 1. I cannot spare personnel asked for.

*From Major General Tughe to War Office.*

(No. 944.3.)

24th July, 1915, 1.15 p.m.

Reference your No. 6465, of 22nd July. Yes, I can spare McKay. He has proved himself to be a first-class all-round officer.

*From Major-General Tighe to War Office.*

(No. 2150.)

24th July, 1915, 12.5 p.m.

Your telegram of the 21st. No. 6427 Chief of General Staff telegraphs:—

Please telegraph as soon as you are definitely informed of arrival of personnel, and we will arrange that howitzers shall reach you as nearly as possible on the same date.

I am prepared for personnel as soon as it can be sent. Please telegraph date on which it is likely to leave England (approx.)

(2.) Railhead will be at Mbuyuni or further before final advance is commenced. Beyond railhead, transport will be effected by oxen, and man-handling or by trailers if these are available.

My telegram No. 2280-6, 16th June. The howitzers will be greatly enhanced in value if aeroplane available for Taveta line.

*From War Office to General Officer Commanding, Nairobi.*

(No. 6495, cipher. C.M.G. 2.)

24th July, 1915, 11 a.m.

Two officers and 108 other ranks, 2nd Bn. Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, left on 22nd instant in f. Mombasa.

*From Embarkation, Bombay, to Secretary of State for War.*

(No. 552 E.)

26th July, 1915, 8.41 a.m.

Hired transport "Taraka" sailed July 26th for Force B, via Aden. Re-embarked for Force B.

|                                                                             |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Reinforcements—                                                             |    |
| Officers                                                                    | 3  |
| Servants                                                                    | 3  |
| 2nd Bn. Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, rank and file                      | 70 |
| Maxim Gun Battery, rank and file                                            | 9  |
| with the Fort Defence Volunteers Artillery Company, rank and file           | 14 |
| Post and Telegraphs—                                                        |    |
| British officer                                                             | 1  |
| Warrant officers                                                            | 2  |
| Rank and file                                                               | 20 |
| Native soldiers                                                             | 2  |
| Followers                                                                   | 75 |
| Military dist.                                                              | 4  |
| Supply and Transport Corps, staff-sergeant                                  | 1  |
| Indian Ordnance Department                                                  |    |
| Cook                                                                        | 1  |
| Carpenter                                                                   | 1  |
| Railway Volunteers—                                                         |    |
| British, rank                                                               | 1  |
| Native soldier                                                              | 1  |
| No. 5 Battery, Mountain Division, Royal Garrison Artillery, native soldiers | 20 |
| 61st Pioneers 2nd Army—                                                     |    |
| Native soldiers                                                             | 47 |
| Followers                                                                   | 3  |
| and Palamcottah Light Infantry—                                             |    |
| Native soldiers                                                             | 20 |
| Followers                                                                   | 2  |
| 98th Infantry, native soldier                                               | 1  |
| 101st Grenadiers, native soldiers                                           | 40 |
| 108th Infantry, native soldiers                                             | 3  |

*Transport Establishment—*

|                                                                    |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Native soldiers                                                    | 13  |
| Bullock drivers                                                    | 517 |
| Military Works, native soldiers                                    | 2   |
| Rampar Imperial Service Infantry, assistant surgeon                | 1   |
| Young Men's Christian Association, indulgence, 1st Class           | 1   |
| Ordnance stores, packages, 1,781 = 1,365 cwt.                      |     |
| Provisions, grain, equipment, &c., packages, 43,000 = 888 manloads |     |
| Petrol, 6,000 gallons                                              |     |

*From Major-General Tighe to War Office.*

(No. M.O. 327.)

28th July, 1915

Secretary, East Africa Frontier Field Force, writes as follows regarding Cranworth's request:—"Regret money not available for purpose mentioned. Suggest application to Mombasa Patriotic Fund."

*From War Office to Major-General Tighe.*

(No. 6638, cipher. M.O. 1 (A).)

29th July, 1915, 6.20 p.m.

What arrangements have you made with India as to further reinforcements? Notwithstanding your No. 785/3, of 22nd June, we hear that India has sent you 70 rank and file for the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

*From Major-General Tighe to War Office.*

(No. 321.)

30th July, 1915, 3.45 p.m.

The pressure on Southern Uganda has been relieved by the success at Bukoba, and the enemy is now concentrated at Kigali and Lake Ikimba. There is no news of Henry, but message coming heliograph.

The enemy has now entirely withdrawn from Kérunga border and expect an attack Muanza. I am encouraging this.

East of Voi bombs were exploded on the Uganda Railway on 22nd and 27th; the damage done was slight.

The water pipes are arriving gradually, and by the end of August 35,000 gallons expected at Maktau. Owing to heavy sickness, white troops are not strong enough to push the railway beyond Maktau until the enemy water supply fails at Mbuyuni, as at short notice the enemy can concentrate there 3,000 to 4,000 troops.

The "Königsberg" being destroyed, our warships are dispersing to blockade the coast of German East Africa. This leaves Mafu somewhat open to raids from the mainland. The wireless installation there has less than 20 miles range, and a good port wireless installation is urgently required there for communication with the Navy.

*From War Office to Major-General Tighe, Nairobi.*

(No. 6721, cipher. M.O. 383.)

2nd August, 1915.

Your No. 2150, of 24th July. You should tell India to defer sending howitzers, as no personnel for them can be spared.