

was unlikely that at a distance of 180 miles it would affect the situation at Saisi, I decided to make a demonstration against the enemy's position on the Songwe on the 13th, while the "Guendolen" under Lieutenant-Commander Dennistoun made a simultaneous demonstration at the north end of the lake. A letter, however, was received on the night of the 12th which informed me that the enemy had retired from Saisi, and I returned to Karonga on the evening of the 13th.

The Nyasaland Imperial Service Contingent from the Union of South Africa arrived in the Protectorate early in September and was conveyed in two detachments to Karonga. The first detachment arrived at Karonga on the 15th September, and the second detachment on the 23rd.

During September and October there were numerous encounters between patrols in the vicinity of the Lufira River, Captains Galbraith and Griffiths, of the 1st K.A.R., being prominent in the conduct of these enterprises.

The health of the troops since the outbreak of the war has been satisfactory. There has been a considerable amount of malaria and dysentery, but the percentage of sickness has not been so high as the average of previous years at Karonga; this is no doubt due to the large amount of clearing which has been done and to the sanitary measures carried out by the medical staff. There was one case of enteric at the end of 1914; the majority of Europeans have since been inoculated, and there has been no further case.

The Europeans have been fortunately placed in the matter of supplies at Karonga, cattle and fresh milk being obtainable, also vegetables and fresh fish, at most times of the year. Rations for native troops, principally rice, were brought by steamer from lake ports, and a full ration, with additional issues of beans and fresh meat, was maintained.

The rains at the north end of the lake fell between the end of November and the early part of May, and in the Songwe district the rainfall must have reached nearly 150 inches. In Karonga itself the rainfall did not exceed 30 inches, and this difference favoured our forces very greatly as compared with the enemy in the matter of health. This in itself thoroughly justified the selection of Karonga as our defensive position.

It was impossible to maintain our telegraphic communication with Rhodesia owing to the proximity of the line to the border and the positions of the enemy's main posts.

I wish to acknowledge the cordial assistance which has always been rendered by all the civil officials, on whom a great amount of additional work has been thrown, also the ready help which has been given by the Free Church of Scotland Mission and the Universities Mission. The former placed all their buildings at Karonga at the disposal of the Field Force for hospital purposes, and also helped greatly by supplying labour and growing vegetables for the use of the force. The steamer owned by the latter was taken over by Government for transport purposes, and her staff has worked unremittingly during the whole period dealt with.

A considerable number of the Nyasaland Volunteer Reserve has been employed during the whole period with the Field Force in various capacities, and has for the last eight months furnished a machine-gun section with

two guns. About 60 took part in the action at Kasoa on September 9th 1914, where their services were most valuable, two being killed while working maxims.

The men of the 1st K.A.R. and the K.A.R. reservists have given entire satisfaction, and their conduct reflects the greatest credit on the company officers, especially as the men were mostly young soldiers.

I have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's notice the names of the following officers, non-commissioned officers and men:—

Captain C. W. Barton, C.M.G., D.S.O., Northamptonshire Regiment, 1st K.A.R. Commanded the Field Force till September 9th, 1914, when a severe defeat was inflicted on the enemy, on which date he was wounded.

Lieutenant P. D. Bishop, K.A.R. Reserve. Commanded the garrison of Karonga on 9th September, and defended the post for four hours against greatly superior forces. Awarded Military Cross.

Captain H. W. Stevens, Retired Pay, Reserve of Officers. Commanded a double company at the action at Kasoa on September 9th 1914, with coolness and gallantry. Commanded the Field Force from September 9th to December 29th. Previously served as Lieut.-Colonel Commanding 1st K.A.R.

Captain G. L. Baxter, Cameron Highlanders, 1st K.A.R. Has carried out with zeal and ability the duties of Staff Officer to the force since the commencement of the war. Displayed conspicuous coolness at Kasoa on September 9th 1914, inspiring confidence in the troops by his contempt of danger.

Captain H. G. Collins, R.F.A., 1st K.A.R. Led his company with great dash at Kasoa on September 9th 1914. Commanded a most successful landing expedition at Sphinxhaven on May 20th 1915. Conducted energetic pursuit of rebels after the rising in January 1914, after making a two days' forced march of 86 miles.

Captain J. E. E. Galbraith, Royal Fusiliers, 1st K.A.R. Specially mentioned by his Company Commander for his coolness and leading of his men under fire at Kasoa on September 9th 1915, under enemy's Maxim and rifle fire.

Captain A. H. Griffiths, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, 1st K.A.R. Commanded relieving force at Karonga on September 9th 1914; attacked enemy with great dash, capturing two Maxims and routing enemy about twice the strength of his own force.

Captain T. S. Muirhead, Northamptonshire Regiment, 1st K.A.R. Commanded his company with ability and coolness at Kasoa on September 9th 1914; though wounded in the leg returned and continued in command till again severely wounded when working a Maxim whose team had been killed or wounded.

Captain J. L. Portal, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, 1st K.A.R. At Kasoa, September 9th 1914, by his personal influence and force of character controlled under a heavy fire a company of young recruits in action for the first time.

Lieutenant (temporary Captain) C. Thornburn, Reserve of Officers. Has commanded the Base and Lines of Communications from the commencement of the war. Has performed his duties very industriously, and