

Meanwhile preparations for the advance on Dar-es-Salaam were in full swing, and on the 31st August the military advance started from Bagamoyo, the main body marching south and being strongly reinforced at Kunduchi on the 2nd September, for which landing they themselves formed the covering party. The plan succeeded admirably, the enemy retiring and making little attempt to oppose the advance, so that in the end the final reinforcements actually landed in face of the very formidable entrenchments at Mssassani Bay.

With the military column went six naval maxims, six Lewis guns, one 3-pounder Hotchkiss on field mounting, and a medical section, the party being under the command of Commander H. D. Bridges, D.S.O., of "Hyacinth."

Communication between the main column and the small craft inshore was maintained by a naval wireless party.

The march of 36 miles proved exceedingly arduous, the road turning into little better than a sandy track through a waterless district. Porters were short and speedily dropped behind with provisions, to add to which the first regiment of African descent which arrived at Mssassani consumed the 12,000 gallons of water and three days' provisions for the whole force.

On the 3rd September, following on the simulated landing from the whalers, a brisk bombardment of gun positions to the northward of the town, and in advance of our troops, was carried out for half an hour until 7.0 a.m., when firing ceased and our troops continued their advance to the outskirts of the town.

As matters now appeared ripe to demand the surrender of the town, on the morning of the 4th September, "Challenger," flying a white flag, proceeded to Makatumba with a written demand, signed by me and by the Officer commanding troops. This was transferred to the "Echo," which took it as far as the boom and then sent it ashore in her boat.

About 8.0 a.m., the deputy burgomaster, the bank manager, and an interpreter came off in the "Echo" and agreed to the conditions of the demand, giving all the required guarantees. Our troops were at once told by wireless to advance into the town. All ships entered Dar-es-Salaam Bay, and during the afternoon the monitors entered the harbour after destroying the hawsers of the boom across the entrance.

I landed with my staff at 2.30 p.m., and at 3.0 o'clock the Union Jack was hoisted over the Magistracy with full honours.

Following on the occupation of Dar-es-Salaam it became necessary to seize other coast towns further south, and thus prevent the enemy from retreating by the coast to Lindi and the southern ports.

In consequence, on the 7th September, a simultaneous attack was made on the two Kilwas (Kivinje and Kisiwani), with the object of getting possession of these towns and holding the two hills, Singino Hill and Mpara Hill, which command Kilwa Kivinje and Port Beaver respectively. After four 12-in. shrapnel had been placed on the top of Singino Hill by "Vengeance," a white man was seen endeavouring to haul down the German colours at Kivinje and to hoist his boy's white "kanzu" in their place. This was observed just in time to prevent fire being opened from

"Vengeance" with 6-in. guns on the trenches along the beach. A flag of truce was sent in, the town surrendered unconditionally, and a force was landed and occupied the town and the hill. Meanwhile, Kilwa Kisiwani had surrendered unconditionally to "Talbot," who landed a party and occupied Mpara Hill.

Operations against the three Southern Ports of Mikindani, Sudi and Lindi commenced on the 13th September, when 200 Marines, 700 Indian troops, 200 Zanzibar and Mafia African Rifles, 12 naval machine guns, 2 hotchkiss guns and 950 porters were landed at Mikindani in boats from "Vengeance," "Talbot," "Himalaya," and "Princess" (Captain C. La P. Lewin), assisted by the gunboats "Thistle" (Commander Hector Boyes) and "Rinaldo" (Lieutenant-Commander H. M. Garrett), and the kite balloon ship "Manica" and the transport "Barjora." There was no opposition, and the town was occupied by 9.0 a.m.

On the 14th September our troops commenced their advance towards Sudi, while "Vengeance," "Hyacinth," "Talbot" and "Himalaya," with "Barjora," proceeded round to the anchorage outside there. Whalers entered the inner harbour at daylight on the 16th, experiencing no resistance.

The whole force, having left a garrison of 100 men at Mikindani, marched to Sudi, arriving there at noon, when the marines, naval guns and African Rifles were embarked, the intention being to land these as a covering party outside Lindi under the guns of the squadron, while the main force marched from Sudi to Lindi, where, if any resistance was put up, they would have held a commanding position on the south side of the river.

Early on the 16th the ships proceeded to Lindi Bay and the Naval Brigade was landed after a short bombardment of the selected beach with 6-in. guns. An attempt to send in a flag of truce was made, but no answer could be obtained, and from seaplane observations the town appeared to be deserted. Supported by "Thistle," the force advanced along the beach and occupied the town.

The troops—who were thus saved a long and arduous march from Sudi to Lindi—were re-embarked at Sudi on the evening of the 16th, leaving a garrison of 100 men there. They arrived at Lindi on the 17th, and relieved the Naval Brigade and African Rifles, who were re-embarked.

The same evening "Talbot," "Thistle," and "Barjora," with a detachment of Indian troops on board, left Lindi, and by 8.0 a.m. on the 18th Kiswere was occupied without any opposition, the troops remaining as a garrison.

This was the last town of any importance on the coast of German East Africa, and the whole coast line is now occupied with the exception of the Rufiji Delta.

In connection with the operations covered by this despatch I append a list of officers and men whom I specially desire to bring to the notice of their Lordships for meritorious services.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) E. CHARLTON,

Rear Admiral,  
Commander in Chief.