

and sixty wounded. Our troops showed steadiness under fire, and the following officers and men were specially mentioned by Colonel Hodson, who was in command:—

Lieutenant Dickinson, for ability and good leading.

2nd Lieutenant Allport, for the manner in which he worked his Maxim gun all day and at night carried despatches to Abercorn.

Rifeman Pemberton, Northern Rhodesia Rifles, for the fine example he showed the native troops.

Corporal Africa, Northern Rhodesia Police, for locating snipers at great personal risk.

*Belgian Forces.*

Lieutenant Hollants, for assistance rendered, and Premier Serjeant Bepelle, who, though wounded, remained in the firing line, showed great ability and courage, shooting two Europeans and three native enemy soldiers.

10. Early in July it was reported that a large force of enemy Europeans, native troops and Arabs had landed in Bismarckburg, and that a portion of the New Langenburg Garrison was moving west. In anticipation therefore of a further attack Colonel Hodson very wisely increased the garrison of Saisi, the defences of which had been considerably strengthened since the last attack. On the 26th, after destroying the telegraph wire and so isolating Saisi from Abercorn, the enemy attacked in force. The attack was kept up for eight days. The following is an account of the defence of Saisi, as published in the High Commissioner's Gazette:—

"The attacking force, which was under the command of General Wehle, is believed to have been composed of the 18th, 23rd, 24th and 69th Field Companies, four other companies, and the Tabora and Rukwe contingents of 400 Europeans and 200 Arabs. A German field company, when up to strength, consists of 10 officers, 10 volunteers, and 200 Askari. The strength of the garrison was 470 Rhodesian and Belgian native troops, with 19 Europeans. The garrison had but little food, and depended for water upon supplies obtained at night under fire and between pickets from the rivers.

On the 31st July a Parlemaire arrived from the German lines with a white flag and a letter inquiring whether the Commandant was prepared to consider terms of surrender. Major O'Sullivan's reply was an emphatic negative.

The total number of casualties sustained by the garrison was nineteen, all natives, including five soldiers and four carriers killed, and one native servant who died of wounds. A relief party under Major de Koninck, which attempted unsuccessfully to get into touch with the garrison, lost five native soldiers killed, ten wounded, and three missing. Major O'Sullivan estimates that of the enemy, at least forty Europeans and from fifty to sixty Askari and Arabs were killed. About 216 shells and at least 90,000 rounds of ammunition are reported to have been fired by the enemy. It is believed that one German gun and one Maxim were put out of action. The Belgian troops rendered most valuable assistance. The despatches express special appreciation of the services of Lieutenant Clynmans and of Sous Officier Derycke, both of whom were at Saisi during the siege. The Commandant-General considers that much of the success of the defence

was due to the fine soldierly qualities, indefatigable endeavours, and personality of Captain (temporary Major) J. J. O'Sullivan. This officer has been promoted to the rank of Major in the Northern Rhodesia Police for good service on the present and other occasions, and has been appointed to be a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order in recognition of his conduct of the defence of Saisi.

The Commandant-General's despatches make special mention for gallantry of the following officer and men:—

Lieutenant H. Allport, Northern Rhodesia Police.

This officer displayed both energy and ability, and handled his Maxim in a masterly manner, transferring it from position to position in the trenches.

No. 1709 Trooper Hadath, British South Africa Police (gun layer).

Mentioned for good gun-laying, coolness, and ability; also for working the helio under heavy Maxim fire.

No. 452 Colour-Serjeant Zidana, Northern Rhodesia Police.

Mentioned for carrying round orders under fire and for general good behaviour.

No. 053 Serjeant Geza, Northern Rhodesia Police.

Mentioned for good conduct in commanding a section, keeping his men well together, and showing initiative and ability under fire.

No. 399 Corporal Chikusi and No. 345 Private Piyo, both of the Northern Rhodesia Police.

Mentioned for good service in securing water under fire and showing coolness in action at a critical period.

No. 4267 Private Kavuti, British South Africa Police.

Mentioned for sponging out a gun under heavy Maxim and rifle fire at night under no cover.

11. The latter part of 1915 was a period of comparative inactivity on the North-Eastern Border. The withdrawal of the Belgian troops necessitated the despatch of further reinforcements from Rhodesia, and a force of 300 Europeans was raised in Southern Rhodesia, and sent, with as many Northern Rhodesia Police as could be spared, to join the troops under Colonel Hodson. The call for volunteers to proceed to the border was met with admirable promptitude by the residents of Southern Rhodesia. The units thus raised were termed "Special Service Companies of the British South Africa Police," and consisted partly of police, but mainly of members of the Southern Rhodesia Volunteers, with some ex-members of the First Rhodesia Regiment. A portion of these reinforcements was sent via Livingstone and the remainder through Nyasaland, and by 16th October the whole force had reached the border.

12. Early in 1916 Brigadier-General E. Northey, A.D.C., assumed command of the Rhodesian and Nyasaland forces and of the contingents which had meanwhile been raised in the Union and sent up through Nyasaland. On his arrival operations on the border, which hitherto had necessarily been of a defensive character, entered upon a new phase.

13. Prior to the arrival of the Belgian troops on the border and during their temporary absence in November and December, 1914, the brunt of the defence fell upon the Northern Rhodesia Police. I cannot speak too highly of the manner in which the European officers and