

Medical Services had an exceedingly difficult problem to contend with in evacuating the sick and wounded during the rains. It had to be done mainly by carriers, often through swamps and roads which were for miles under three or four feet of water. Their personnel suffered considerably from the prevailing diseases, but worked with great devotion under the most trying circumstances.

In his last despatch General Smuts, my predecessor in command, expressed his appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Governments of India, South Africa, British East Africa, Uganda and Zanzibar respectively, and by many charitable societies and private individuals. The same ready help has been afforded by all of these during the period in which I have been in command. I especially wish to thank the Commander-in-Chief in India for his readiness to meet the many demands made upon him.

The East African forces fully appreciate all they owe to the Mercantile Marine, and realise that it is to the devotion and untiring efforts of this service that they are able to maintain themselves in the field.

My warmest thanks are due to the Royal Navy for their valuable co-operation. They have invariably shown themselves eager to assist the land forces in every way possible.

In this short despatch I have refrained from giving more than a general description of the conditions under which the campaign has been conducted during the rains. But I trust that it may be sufficient to give some idea of the hardships which have been experienced by the troops during this period. Apart from the very trying climatic conditions, the scarcity of suitable transport caused great privations, to alleviate which the efforts made by the various Staffs, Departments and Services were exceedingly strenuous. All ranks have endured this trying time in the most praiseworthy manner. The spirit and keenness of the fighting troops has been undiminished. Upon the Commanders, Staffs and Departments there has fallen the double burden of contending with the difficulties of carrying on the campaign during the rainy season, while at the same time reorganising the force and preparing for the subsequent advance.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. R. Hoskins,

Lieutenant-General,

Commanding the Forces in East Africa.

To the Secretary of State for War

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