

lated to make the enemy weaken on the line of the Ruaha at Kidatu, and so facilitate the advance on Mahenge from Kilossa.

I decided that these two operations could be begun at once, and that at the end of June the state of reinforcements and transport at Kilwa would probably permit me to begin operations in that area against the enemy's main force. Meanwhile General Northey would be concentrating at Songea for his advance eastwards, and his troops in Portuguese East Africa would continue clearing the enemy out of the country they had occupied.

The operations under General Edwards against Naumann were in full progress north of the Central Railway.

7. During June the situation developed on the above lines with varying results.

On the west General Northey despatched the 1/4th King's African Rifles to clear the enemy from the district east of Lake Nyassa. Half this battalion crossed the Portuguese border north of Fort Johnston and moved northwards, being joined later by the remainder of the battalion, which was landed on the shore of Lake Nyassa, to the south-west of Mtonia. By the end of June this force had advanced to within a day's march of Mwembe, where enemy patrols were encountered. Mwembe and Likopolwe were both occupied by 6th July, the enemy falling back northwards without serious resistance.

The Songea column, consisting of 1/1st and 2/1st K.A.R., 1st South African Rifles, and a section of Mountain Artillery, had by 30th June completed its concentration at Likuju, on the Songea-Liwale road. The enemy were unaware of the extent of this concentration, and on the 29th approached Likuju with about five companies, and opened fire on the camp with a field gun, but thereafter made off hurriedly without attempting further reconnaissance.

Two companies of Northern Rhodesian Police were despatched on 27th from Lupembe to Nalugombe to prevent the enemy at Mpepo from reinforcing his Ruipa front.

Colonel Tytler concentrated the Iringa column, consisting of the 17th Infantry, 2/4th K.A.R., and two sections 24th Mountain Battery, at Boma Mzinga by 29th June, with advanced posts forward to Mgeta Mission, and improved the roads for his advance to Ifakarasi, which began on the 30th.

The situation in the Kilwa area during June was as follows:—

The enemy was holding a general line running from Kimamba Hill, adjoining Kisiwani Harbour, up the right bank of the Ngaura River to Makangaga, and thence across to Kilaganeli, eight miles south of Kirongo, and to Nahende, on the Liwale road. Kimamba Hill, the rising ground opposite Rumbo, Kilaganeli, and Nahende were held by strong detachments. A total of eighteen companies was known to be on this front, of which about eleven were between Kimamba Hill and Makangaga. There were also two or three enemy companies to the north-west at Madaba, which sent constant patrols eastward.

The composition of the Kilwa force (tem-

porarily under command of Brigadier-General Beves) was as follows:—

No. 1 Column (Colonel Orr).

33rd Punjabis.
Gold Coast Regiment.
2/2nd K.A.R.
22nd Mountain Battery.

No. 2 Column (Colonel Grant).

57th Rifles.
129th Baluchis.
1/3rd K.A.R.
2/3rd K.A.R.
11th Hull Heavy Battery.
27th Mountain Battery.

No. 2 Column was concentrated at Kirongo, with detachments at Namatewa, Chemera, and Mnasi, No. 1 Column at Rumbo, with a strong detachment opposite Kimamba Hill, and a smaller intervening detachment.

Throughout the month our patrols were in daily touch with enemy patrols, which devoted much attention to harassing our lines of communication. Careful reconnaissances of the enemy's positions opposite Kirongo, Mnasi, and Rumbo were undertaken, and preparations made for attack on the arrival of reinforcements. These arrived at the end of the month, the 8th South African Infantry being allotted to No. 1 Column, and 7th South African Infantry and one company 3/3rd K.A.R. to No. 2 Column. A small column, No. 3, consisting of 3/3rd K.A.R. (less one company) and 200 rifles 40th Pathans, was formed under Colonel Taylor.

On the 27th the enemy evacuated some of his advanced positions, and on the 28th patrols found that all had been given up, except Kimamba Hill, which was held by a light rear-guard until the morning of the 29th, when our troops drove it off.

Intelligence and patrolling indicated that the enemy had withdrawn in the direction of Mtshakama, while still maintaining his detachment at Kilaganeli.

In the Lindi area the first week of the month was spent in active reconnaissance and preparation for an operation to expel the enemy from the area Ngapa-Schaeffer's Farm-Mayani, which he was holding with about six companies. On the 10th June the Lindi force advanced in two columns, the right column (5th Infantry, 1/2nd K.A.R., half 259th Machine Gun Company, one section 27th Mountain Battery, under Lieutenant-Colonel Law, 2nd West India Regiment) moving from Lindi via Naitiwi and Mayani, while the main column (25th Royal Fusiliers, 3/2nd K.A.R., Machine Gun Section and Trench Mortars of 2nd West India Regiment, one section 3rd Battery South African Field Artillery, one company 61st Pioneers, under Brigadier-General O'Grady) operated to the east of Mandawa from Mkwaya Creek, where a successful landing was carried out in co-operation with the Navy, which also supported the advance of the main column by covering fire. The operation was completed by the 13th June, the enemy abandoning the area after some resistance, in the course of which the 25th Royal Fusiliers took two machine guns.

The abandoned area was occupied by our troops, and active patrolling forward was carried out till the end of the month. On the 29th the Officer Commanding at Naitiwi (Lieutenant-Colonel Wilford, D.S.O., 5th