

Light Infantry) hearing of a small enemy party near Lutende, some eight miles north of his post, moved out with 150 rifles of his battalion to attack it. The enemy camp was rushed at dawn on the 30th, three white and several black prisoners being captured. Our force was, however, almost immediately counter-attacked by three enemy companies, whose presence had not been suspected, and surrounded. Colonel Wilford was mortally wounded early in the engagement. Captain Hall took command, and, after a gallant fight against very heavy odds, finally broke out with some fifty men and reached Naitiwi.

8. Active operations took place during June north of the Central Railway, where British and Belgian columns continued the pursuit of Naumann.

As the country to the west of Mwanza was familiar to the enemy, and he had made persistent efforts to break in that direction, General Edwards disposed his columns to prevent such a movement, while he continued to pursue from the south. Naumann kept on moving northwards, and on the 5th June attacked our post at Mkalama, which was gallantly defended by its small garrison of five whites and twenty-two Askaris, under the Political Officer, Captain Holland, until the arrival of our column on the 8th. The enemy resumed his march, crossed the Sibiti River, and then turned north-west, with the intention of breaking west between Schinyanga and Ilola. On finding, however, that this path was barred, he turned north again, and, crossing the Simiju River on the 15th, reached Samanda on the 17th June, evidently making for Ikoma.

9. I had a meeting at Dodoma on 18th June with Colonel Huyghe, the Belgian Commander-in-Chief, and we agreed that the force engaged in pursuing Naumann was too large, that a smaller force could be given more mobility, and that this should be homogeneous. It was therefore decided that the Belgian troops should take over the Naumann operations from 25th June.

I further asked Colonel Huyghe to send a Belgian column from Dodoma via Iringa to operate against the enemy on the Malinje-Mpepo front, and arranged with him that, during July, another strong column should be got ready to act from Kilossa through Kikumi and Kidodi towards Mahenge. Thus the Belgian forces would eventually be in a position to take over the Mahenge operations entirely.

10. During July General Northey's columns made good progress at all points. In Portuguese East Africa the 1/4th K.A.R. advanced steadily north-eastwards, driving back the enemy, and by the end of the month had completely cleared the north-west portion of Portuguese East Africa. On the 31st the 1/4th K.A.R. crossed the Rovuma on rafts near Sassawara unopposed, and moved on Tunduru.

The Songea column, which had concentrated at Likuju, advanced on the 3rd July, and by the 7th had driven the enemy from his position covering the Songea-Liwale and Songea-Mahenge road junction. The opposing enemy force did not retire towards Liwale, as we had expected, but drew off northwards in the direction of Mahenge; and I directed General Northey to pursue if necessary as far as Mpondas, when the situation would be re-considered. This advance continued steadily,

the enemy force of about five companies, though offering a stubborn rearguard resistance in difficult country, being driven from position to position, until, at the end of the month, Colonel Hawthorn had reached a point a few miles south of Mpondas. There were signs that the enemy had been reinforced from Madaba in the Eastern Rufiji area.

Further north two small columns from Lupembe, under Lieutenant-Colonel Fair, had similarly pressed the enemy's detachment to the west of Ruhudje, and by the 26th had driven the whole of it across that river into the Mpepo Mkapira area.

The Iringa column by 2nd July had its advanced troops in contact with the enemy on the Ruipa River, and by the 7th had secured a crossing. The advance continued against constant rearguard opposition, and by the 15th the column had occupied the whole of the entrenched enemy positions on the Ruipa. The enemy fell back on a strong position on the Njarabungu River, our forces following slowly on account of transport difficulties in rear. On the 29th July the enemy was attacked in position and compelled to withdraw towards the Idete River.

11. The effect of the above operations on the Western front was clearly shown by the way in which the enemy withdrew his forces from other points in order to strengthen the Mahenge area. To the north he began to fall back to the line of the Ruaha River, while further east he weakened his forces at Madaba, sending the bulk of them to reinforce his troops on the west. This latter movement eventually enabled me to reduce my detachment on the Lower Rufiji to one battalion, which carried out active patrolling to the south, with the object of inducing the enemy to anticipate an advance on our part from the Rufiji.

12. Important operations took place during July in the Kilwa area, where I found myself in a position to initiate operations against the enemy's main forces during the first week of the month.

Transport considerations did not yet permit of these operations being pressed beyond a limited distance, but I hoped that I should be able to go far enough to compel the enemy to show definitely whether he intended to retire towards Liwale or Massassi, to gain ground in which roads and water supplies could be prepared for the next step, and to inflict loss on the enemy which would weaken his resistance to subsequent blows.

With these objects in view I decided, as a first phase, to drive the Kilwa enemy south of the Kiturika Hills. The Lindi force was meantime to contain the enemy opposing it, but to take no offensive on a large scale pending arrival of reinforcements.

The advance at Kilwa began on 5th July with a converging movement of Nos. 1 and 2 Columns of the Kilwa force against the enemy positions round Mnindi, on the Mtshakama road, while No. 3 Column moved simultaneously from Wungwi, on the western shore of Kisiwani Harbour, towards Nambanditi.

There was sharp fighting during the whole of the 6th, No. 1 Column driving the enemy from a position four miles north-east of Mnindi and pressing him backwards, while No. 2 Column attacked Mnindi from the west. The enemy was found well entrenched on both fronts, and the attacks progressed slowly. Towards evening the enemy delivered a heavy