

Kitengari and Newala. No. 4 Column was utilised in cutting a motor-road from Mtama towards Luagala.

Fighting was continuous on the 16th round Lutshemi. No. 3 Column and the Nigerians drove the enemy from successive rearguard positions after sharp engagements, while No. 1 Column advanced east from Mwiti. The country was extremely broken and difficult, and progress was slow. The Mounted Column arrived at Lulindi.

The Nigerians, No. 1 Column and No. 3 Column, converged on Lutshemi on the 17th, fighting their way continuously. The enemy began to show signs of unsteadiness, many undamaged rifles being found. The extreme thickness of the bush made it impossible to surround the enemy completely, and during the night of the 17th/18th his main force retired south-east towards Simba's by an unsuspected path. After some rearguard opposition on the 18th, our troops occupied his camp at Lutshemi, releasing 32 European officer prisoners of war, and capturing about 300 German whites and 700 askaris.

No. 2 Column on the 18th captured a patrol sent by Tafel to get communication with Von Lettow Vorbeck.

No. 1 Column was now directed to support the Mounted Troops at Lulindi, while No. 3 Column continued the direct pursuit towards Simba's. No. 2 Column and the Nigerians were held back in reserve in readiness to deal with Tafel's force moving south from the Mahenge area. The exact location of this force was at the moment unknown.

On the 20th patrols reported that the enemy main force had retired south from Simba's-Kitengari area. At Simba's 52 Germans and 75 askaris surrendered to No. 3 Column.

No. 1 Column at once moved against Newala, arriving there on the 21st but found that the enemy had moved south with great speed and got clear, leaving 126 Germans and 78 askaris in our hands.

30. Reports indicated that Von Lettow Vorbeck was making for the Rovuma and thence intended to go westwards to gain touch with Tafel's force. The latter had been located west of Massassi by our scouts and Intelligence Agents, who reported on the 20th that it was on the upper reaches of, and moving down the Bangalla River. No. 2 Column was accordingly directed to move to Massassi on the 22nd, and thence on the 23rd towards the Bangalla, the Nigerian Brigade to concentrate at Massassi and No. 3 Column at Mwiti. No. 2 Column was placed temporarily under the G.O.C. Lindi force.

The Mounted Column was ordered to move on the 23rd towards the junction of the Bangalla and Rovuma Rivers, and No. 1 Column to concentrate at Luatala on the 23rd in support of the Mounted Column.

Reports on the 23rd showed that the greater part of Tafel's force had passed through Mtimbo on the night 22nd/23rd, and was continuing its march down the Bangalla, and that the bulk of Von Lettow Vorbeck's force was still on the north bank of the Rovuma.

On the 24th No. 2 Column reached the Bangalla, with part of the Nigerian Brigade following in support, while No. 1 Column, pushing on from Luatala in support of the mounted troops, reached the Mwiti River. On the 25th it became clear that the speed with

which Von Lettow Vorbeck was moving up the Rovuma made it unlikely that the stern chase after him would succeed; and as a matter of fact he crossed the Rovuma at Ngomano on November 25th and 26th, and escaped up the Lujenda into Portuguese territory. An attempt by the Portuguese garrison at Ngomano to delay this movement was not successful.

31. On the other hand, it now became evident that owing to the speed of our movements Von Lettow Vorbeck had failed to effect his junction with Tafel. The latter was apparently unaware that his Commander had abandoned the Makonde Plateau and Newala, and had therefore decided to leave the Bangalla and move east towards Newala.

On the 25th Tafel's advanced troops engaged our post at Tshirimba Hill. No. 1 Column had reached the Bangalla confluence that morning and seen no sign of the enemy, but on native intelligence being received that the enemy was advancing towards Luatala a cavalry patrol was ordered to return there, backed by the 129th Baluchis.

I directed No. 1 Column to return to Mwiti, No. 3 Column to work south from Nairoambo, and No. 2 Column, which had reached Nauru's, to continue its movement towards Wangoni. The Nigerian Brigade was disposed partly at Nauru's, partly on the Bangalla.

On the 26th, the cavalry patrol and 129th Baluchis (about 150 rifles strong) had a sharp engagement near the Mwiti River. The enemy was in much superior strength, forced back this small detachment, and proceeded south. It was evident that Tafel had discovered his mistake, and was trying to break away.

On receipt of the report of this action, No. 1 Column, which was marching to Mwiti River, was directed to move in pursuit and attack the enemy wherever met.

On the 27th a party of 37 Germans, 178 askaris and about 1,100 other natives came in and surrendered to the post at Luatala and Intelligence pointed to the remainder of Tafel's force having moved down the Mwiti River and crossed the Rovuma. No. 1 Column was accordingly ordered to return to Bangalla on the 28th to intercept him, but in the evening a message was received from Tafel stating that he intended a cessation of hostilities. A meeting was arranged, and at midday on the 28th Tafel surrendered unconditionally, with 19 officers (including Schonfeld, Lincke, and Aumann), 92 other Europeans, over 1,200 askaris and some 2,200 other natives.

32. With the surrender of Tafel and the retreat into Portuguese East Africa of Von Lettow Vorbeck with the remnant of his forces (approximately 50 officers, 250 other Europeans, 1,500—1,800 askaris), the campaign in German East Africa came to an end, and the last German Colony was conquered after a resistance which had been prolonged until nine-tenths of the enemy's white and black personnel had either been killed or had fallen into our hands. Raiding bands might still re-cross the border but could scarcely hope again to wage organised war in German East Africa.

An equally arduous campaign, though on a very much smaller scale, will, however, probably still be necessary before the German force in Portuguese East Africa is finally brought to book, for the country is vast and communications are difficult.