

CHAPTER 7

On Boxing Day 1915 German naval superiority on Lake Tanganyika ended. In October, after an epic journey overland from the Cape, 27 naval officers and ratings had reached Kalemie, halfway up the Western Shore of the Lake, at the mouth of the Lukuga River. Led by Commander G B Spicer-Simpson RN they had brought with them two motor launches, HMS Mimi and HMS Toutou, each armed with a six pounder gun. They now sallied out and disabled and captured the Kingani. On 9 February 1916 the Hedwig von Weissmann was sunk. By March the destruction of the German lake fleet was complete.¹

On 6 February 1916 Lieutenant General Jan Christian Smuts was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in East Africa. On 19 February he landed at Mombasa to take up his appointment. By 31 March, 18,700 South Africans had joined the British, Indian and African troops on the Northern Front. With these reinforcements the complete conquest of German East Africa was confidently expected within the year.²

There had been no significant expansion of the King's African Rifles, although 2 KAR was to be reformed on 1 April 1916. It was already appreciated that the most suitable troops for bush warfare in this country were Africans, with strong cadres of white leaders and specialists. Nevertheless it was considered that victory would be obtained in less time than it would take to train sufficient African recruits, and before the climate and the mosquito destroyed the European and Indian units. Von Lettow, on the other hand, had had to make do with local resources, supplemented by the crews and cargoes of two successful blockade runners. By 1 January 1916, despite casualties, he had managed to more than quadruple his original force to a strength of 2,712 Europeans, 11,367 askari, and 2,531 irregulars and armed porters, with 50 guns and 95 machine guns. By 5 March these were organised into the equivalent of 60 field companies.³

On the Southern Front there were also changes. On 29 January 1916 Brevet Colonel (Temporary Brigadier-General) Edward Northey ADC arrived at Zomba to take command of the Nyasaland-Rhodesia Field Force, in which all the troops at the front in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland came under unified command for the first time. Northey's instructions were clear, "You will ensure the safety of the Rhodesia Nyasaland borders."⁴

Northey, an officer of the King's Royal Rifle Corps, had been wounded in June 1915 while commanding a brigade in France. He had sailed from England on 4 December 1915 with three staff officers. He landed at Cape Town on 24 December and commenced consultations with local commanders and governments. From 7 to 11

January 1916 he was at Livingstone accompanied by the Commandant-General Rhodesian Forces, Brigadier-General Edwards.

After working on the reorganisation of transport, supply and medical arrangements, Northey reached Karonga on 16 February and set out on a tour of the 250 mile front from Lake Nyasa to Lake Tanganyika, reorganising defences, and planning roads, carrier services and supplies.

In Nyasaland there had been a modest reinforcement from South Africa, in the form of the 5th Field Battery, South African Mounted Riflemen, armed with German 75 millimetre mountain guns captured in South West Africa, and the newly raised 1st and 2nd Regiments of South African Rifles, each of four squadrons, or companies, of 110 men. Northey now had 1,100 European and 1,500 African troops. Facing him the enemy had about 1,500, mainly the 29th Field Company from Bismarcksburg and two field companies based at Neu Langenburg.

On 4 March 1916 Northey reached Fife where he found Major Baxendale BSAP in command with two fortified posts 800 yards apart with a valley and water in between. One company of Northern Rhodesia Police garrisoned the Old Boma with B Company BSAP and a company of NRP at Mandala Camp, the old African Lakes Corporation compound.

On 10 March Colonel Hodson and Murray, his staff officer, joined General Northey at Fife and accompanied him to Abercorn which was reached on 18 March. Northey found A Company BSAP manning Abercorn North, one company of the Northern Rhodesia Police with two machine guns and a 2.5 inch mountain gun at Zombe, nine miles away, while the rest of the NRP held the area of Abercorn Prison, the District Commissioner's house and Mandala's stores by a series of posts. Northey regarded this perimeter as too long and criticised the defence works on the frontier for being built up too high off the ground. He judged the Northern Rhodesia Police to be good material but practically untried. The ration, down to 1½ pounds of meal a day for the past two months, was insufficient. Northey noted a requirement for 4.5 inch howitzers, never met, and rifle grenades.

On 23 March Northey left Abercorn for Fort Hill and Karonga, where he established his headquarters. His immediate plan was an operation to clear the enemy's advanced posts as soon as the unusually heavy rains had ceased. He divided his force into three columns:-

No.1 under Lt Col R E Murray DCM BSAP, consisting of the two companies of British South Africa Police and four companies of Northern Rhodesia Police, based on Abercorn, was to take Namema 26 miles to the North-East. The strength of about 260 whites and 540 Africans was reduced by the requirement to leave a garrison of half of 'B' Coy NRP and some BSAP at Abercorn. Northey put the effective strength of No.1 Column at about 200 whites and 400 Africans

No.2 Column under Lt Col E Rodger, 2nd South African Rifles, consisting of his own regiment (less one squadron), 300 men, and 'E' Company, Northern Rhodesia Police, 138 men under Captain P J Sillitoe, based on Fife, was to take Luwiwa, thirteen miles to the North-East. H G Jones, Native Commissioner at Fife and L E Hickson Wood, Assistant Native Commissioner, were commissioned into the NRP as intelligence officers for this column.

No.3 Column, under the Commandant of 1st King's African Rifles, Lt Col G M P Hawthorn, King's Liverpool Regiment, consisting of 350 men of the KAR, the 1st South African Rifles, and 150 Nyasaland Volunteers, operating from Karonga and Fort Hill, was to take Igamba and Ipiana.⁵

2,000 first line carriers recruited in Northern Rhodesia were to follow Nos 1 and 2 Columns. Colonel Hodson, owing to ill health, had to give up command in the field and take charge of the Lines of Communication in Northern Rhodesia. Warrant Officer W Husbands BSAP was commissioned as a Temporary Second Lieutenant NRP on 1 February as Officer Commanding Supplies, Northern Border at the Kasama Base Depot. Mr Charles Briggs of the Southern Rhodesia Public Works Department was supervising the building of the Great North Road from Broken Hill, upon which Major Charles Duly DSO, the founder of the famous Rhodesian garage chain, was soon to be ferrying supplies by motor transport. Those of the Northern Rhodesia Rifles who remained at the front were absorbed into the Northern Rhodesia Police, the two BSAP companies or the administrative services.⁶

Murray divided his column into four sub-units :-

"A Force" under Captain C H Fair NRP - 'A' Company Northern Rhodesia Police, and half 'A' Company British South Africa Police, with two machine guns.

"B Force" under Captain G Parson BSAP - 'D' Company NRP, half 'A' Company BSAP, with two machine guns.

"C Force" under Captain H C Ingles NRP - 'C' Company NRP, half 'B' Company BSAP, with two machine guns.

"Reserve" under Captain F S James NRP - Half 'B' Company NRP, a section of 'B' Company BSAP, with two machine guns, a 12½ pounder breech loading field gun and two mountain guns of the South African Mounted Riflemen battery.

At 2pm on 23 May Murray's column marched out of Abercorn by the Stevenson Road. They crossed the Lumi River by portable boats and established an advanced base camp 5½ miles west of Namema to be garrisoned by a section of "B" Coy NRP with a machine gun. At 2pm on 24 May "A" and "C" forces marched out of camp to the South-West. An hour later "B" Force left marching north-east through the Liambi Hills. By the morning of 25 May "A" and "B" forces were in position with scouts within 200 yards of an enemy post. "C" Force had lost direction in the bush and only arrived on the following day. Namema was a strong position consisting of two forts about 40 yards apart, on high ground, well provisioned with underground stores.

There was no question of carrying it by assault. The guns were placed on a height to the north west and the lines were closed up to about four hundred yards from the fort. On 28 May the garrison, 29 Field Company, made a sortie against "C" Force but were driven back with the loss of their commander, Oberleutnant Reserve Gotthold von Francken, captured mortally wounded. With one man for every twenty yards of thick bush it was impossible to maintain an escape proof cordon especially on the swampy ground to the North. Seeing the danger Murray called up "Reserve" Force but on the night 1/2 June the enemy, 30 Germans and 200 askari, managed to slip away. Three whites, two of them wounded, and three Africans were captured together with 50 loads of supplies. Murray had lost four BSAP killed and three men wounded.⁷

In the morning Capt McCarthy and his scouts set off in pursuit while the rest of the force concentrated before following in the afternoon with Capt Fair's men in the lead, chasing the enemy beyond Mwazie Mission, some 25 to 30 miles. The enemy then turned west towards Bismarcksburg, breaking the bridge over the Kalambo River and lining the far bank. The Rhodesians came up and a fire fight followed for two or three hours, during which Pte Hampson BSAP crossed the bridge by the one remaining timber followed, despite heavy fire, by 2/Lt H F Martin and No.1 Section 'A' Coy NRP, for the loss of 603 Pte Wazia, killed. At about 4pm the Germans evacuated their strong position. The bridge was partially repaired with planks left lying around by the enemy but most men had to complete the crossing by crawling on hands and knees along the wooden runners. Leaving Maj Parson to follow with the rest in the morning Murray pushed on immediately with 20 or 30 men.⁸

Bismarcksburg was a strongly designed fort on a promontory. Murray's men had covered 75 miles since leaving Namema. On 7 June he called on the German commandant to surrender or, "as soon as my guns arrive I will blow you into the Lake." In fact the guns had been unable to keep pace with the advance and had been sent back to Abercorn. The Commandant, Leutnant Heinrich Hasslacher, replied that having been reinforced by the garrison of Namema, he had no intention of surrendering.

From a hill Dr J M Harold and Lieutenant E L Ingpen NRP watched the parlementaire enter and leave the fort. They asked a passing msikari if the Germans had surrendered. "Yes" he replied, not having understood, but anxious to please. The intrepid doctor led Ingpen and a few BSAP through the narrow gap in the abatis right to the gate of the fort, on which they knocked. The red cross on the pugri on the doctor's helmet had enabled them to get so far without being fired on. The commandant himself opened the door and, according to Captain R W M Langham MC NRP, then a BSAP trooper, asked, in English, the reason for their call. When told that the enemy had not surrendered, Dr Harold, with a total disregard for the Geneva Convention, pulled Hasslacher out of the doorway where the German was grabbed by two troopers. Under fire from three sides, both troopers were wounded as they hustled him back through the gap in the abatis. By luck or the careful

shooting of his men, Heinrich Hasslacher remained unscathed. Ingpen, mortally wounded in the groin cleared the abatis in one desperate leap. Harold appears to have had the luck of the Irish, but the party was pinned down in dead ground in no man's land. Eventually, at Hasslacher's suggestion, Harold agreed to a truce. Hasslacher blew his whistle and waved his handkerchief and both sides ceased fire. The wounded were carried back to the British lines and Hasslacher returned to his command.⁹

Next morning no sign of movement could be observed in the fort. A party of troops advanced towards it in open order. They met no fire. Finally they entered, to find the birds had flown. Three dhows and a fleet of canoes had been concealed on the lake side of the fort, out of sight of the besiegers. In these Hasslacher had silently embarked his troops, their machine guns, ammunition and what stores he could, and sailed away in the darkness. Captain Fair set off up the shoreline in pursuit for three days, but could not find them. They had gone ashore at Kigona on the Belgian side of the Lake, where Heinrich Hasslacher and many others were killed. Commander Spicer-Simpson and his flotilla had been off Bismarcksburg at dawn on 5 June. He had seen the enemy's boats but, having ascertained that the fort was manned, had taken no action. Having then withdrawn to Kituta, he now reappeared, too late to be of any assistance.

"Kaffir" Murray, as he was known in the BSAP on account of his black hair and swarthy appearance, now had to wait for supplies and new orders. Lt Graham was attached to Spicer-Simpson's flotilla in command of a landing party which took part in four operations in June.¹⁰

Meanwhile Lt Col Rodger with No 2 Column had left Fife on 24 May, leaving half of "E" Coy NRP under Lt Withers to garrison the fort. By the 26th Rodger had established a ring of widely separated small posts around Luwiwa. Here the enemy, Hauptmann Heinrich Aumann's 'L' Company of 20 Germans and 180 Africans, mainly policemen, with three machine guns, held two strongly built redoubts about 1,200 yards apart. During the 26th and 27th Rodger's men closed in to within two hundred yards of the enemy positions, reducing the cordon from 8,000 to 4,000 yards, but it was still far too long to be held by only 500 men. During the night 27/28 May the enemy, having used up their rations and water, slipped away in small parties between the British posts to the south, where they were most spread out. Captain Sillitoe was left with his remaining half-company to occupy the Luwiwa District, round up a party of the enemy at Mbozi Mission and organise the collection of food into depots. Rodger set out after the Luwiwa garrison on the morning of 29 May. He pursued them over the Igale Pass, through Neu Langenburg, north-eastward through Pakalele and across the Rungwe River without firing a shot. On 6 June he came up against the enemy rearguard in the Poroto Hills, sixteen miles north of the Rungwe. Four Germans were captured together with a gun, ammunition and camp equipment. The enemy once more vanished and retired to reorganise on the line Madibira-Malangali.

On 9 June Rodger was at Ilongo and Hawthorn's No 3 Column at Neu Utengele. In two weeks the Nyasaland Rhodesia Field Force had occupied 20,000 square miles of German territory. The enemy dislodged in the Bismarcksburg-Namema area was estimated at 600 and the total which had retired before Rodger, 300, not including Ruga Ruga. For the start of the offensive General Northey had set up his headquarters at Fife. He now moved up to Neu Langenburg. It was decided that his next objective should be Iringa to intercept the enemy retreating before Smuts' advance from the North. Accordingly, on 11 June, Northey sent for Lt Col Murray to bring his Rhodesians two hundred miles eastwards to Rungwe.

'B' and 'D' companies Northern Rhodesia Police, Capts James and Hornsby, and 30 BSAP details were left at Bismarcksburg under Major Baxendale, to round up enemy stragglers and help Captain Chesnaye to establish British administration in the area. As Political Officer, Chesnaye was assisted by Lt E H K Jordan also commissioned into the NRP from the Northern Rhodesia Native Affairs Department. With 'A' and 'C' companies NRP and the rest of the British South Africa Police, Murray marched through Fife on 23 June and reached Rungwe on 29 June. From Rungwe he marched north-east another fifty miles, joining Rodger at Buhora on 9 July. Sillitoe with 'E' Company NRP still on the Lines of Communication now had his HQ at Neu Utengele.

On this front the enemy 2nd, 5th, 22nd and 'L' field companies had been reinforced by 10th Field Company and the crew of the Konigsberg. Rodger was ordered to march on Malangali, while Murray, on the left, was to work towards Madibira where the enemy were entrenching, 40 miles north-east of Buhora. He was to pin them down there while Rodger and Hawthorn took Malangali. On 11 July a Rhodesian patrol drove a party of the enemy out of Kawere, fifteen miles north-east of Buhora. On 25 July Murray was at Madibira from where the enemy had withdrawn on the fall of Malangali. On 28 July Capt E G Dickinson with 'C' Coy NRP and half 'A' BSAP, drove the Germans out of Lutege, halfway from Madibira to Waussa. Murray sent Captain Fair's 'A' Company NRP a further thirty miles north to the crossing on the Great Ruaha River at Kiganga, where it remained for about a week, intercepting the enemy's mails between Iringa and Tabora and gaining much valuable information. On 9 August Fair's men captured a German naval petty officer and four askari. An attempt to bridge the Ruaha was stopped and canoes collected by the enemy destroyed.¹²

The advance was now held to await developments in the North, until on 22 August Murray entered Waussa unopposed. On 25 August three enemy askari were captured. On 26 August Murray's forward troops located the retiring Konigsberg detachment of sailors, 2, 5, 10 and 'L' field companies, 120 Germans and 640 askari with 12 machine guns, all under Hauptmann Braunschweig, at Weru, 23 miles from Waussa and 15 miles short of Iringa. Two more askari were captured together with despatches and 1,000 cattle. At 11 am on 29 August 1916 'C' Company, Northern Rhodesia Police, now under Captain Dickinson, entered Iringa, liberating 16 Indian

prisoners of war and 42 civilian internees, British Asians. Three wounded Germans and 4 askari were found in the hospital and 50 German women and children in the town.¹³

Murray's Rhodesians were now only about a hundred miles from Smuts' 2nd Division, which had crossed the Central Railway at Kilosa, but it was clear that von Lettow was not to be trapped between the two forces. His troops, retreating from north and south, were heading off east for Mahenge. The plan was now to trap them between Lake Nyasa to the west, the Sea to the east, and the Rovuma River, the Portuguese border, to the south. Portugal had entered the war on the allied side in March.

Rodger was near Waussa exploiting to the east. Hawthorn was still further south and east at Lupembe. He was ordered to make for Makua, fifty five miles to his north-east. Murray, leaving a garrison at Iringa, was to march south-east on Muhanga. They would then both make for Mahenge.

Murray left Iringa on 3 September. His route was across ranges of steep hills with narrow valleys and bush so thick men had to cut their way through it. Reconnaissance showed that the enemy rearguard was well dug in at Boma Himbu on the Little Ruaha. As Murray and Rodger closed in on this position, Hauptmann Braunschweig vacated it. This was to be the pattern of the advance, the enemy occupying strong positions, forcing their opponents to deploy to outflank them, then slipping away without a fight. The rains set in, cold and depressing.

On 6 September at Lukegeta (Dabaga) the advance was checked by the fire of cleverly concealed machine guns and ptes Pandavipa and Tebulo were killed. Murray dug in within some 400 yards of the northern and western faces of the enemy position, while Rodger hacked a way round to the South-East. The investment was completed by 7pm but three hours later bombers found the enemy trenches empty. The bush was so thick that on the night 7/8 September it took 'A' Coy NRP and 'A' Coy BSAP ten hours to hack their way through five miles.¹⁴

On 11 September a patrol of BSAP entered Muhanga Mission in the plain. Here 13 Germans and 36 askari were found, left behind by the enemy, sick or wounded. To lighten their load the enemy had destroyed 200 rifles and a quantity of ammunition. Of the six men in the patrol three, R W M Langham, A L Messum and C F Schronen were to serve in the NRP post war. Two of the others, Bradbury and Hampson were, to be killed in action at Mkapira.¹⁵

On 14 September Murray reached Hange, with his advanced guard seven miles further east at Boma Dwangire. His ox-drawn guns were a day's march or more behind, escorted by 'A' Company NRP, who spent most of their time from 11 to 15 September helping to haul the guns uphill and holding them back on the downward slope, but managing to laugh and sing as they did it.

Murray's Column was now ordered to march south to link up with Hawthorn. On 24 September Rhodesian patrols ambushed two parties of the enemy, killing two officers and several askari and capturing one German, one askari and 19 cattle. On 29th September Murray reached Mkapira. The men had been on short rations for many days as they marched further and further from their supply base at Iringa. Hawthorn had little to spare, being 60 miles from his own base at Lupembe. The two columns took up a strong position on high ground between the Mnyera and Ruhuje rivers, while posts were established on the lines of communication and supplies built up. Capt Fair with 'A' Coy NRP and most of 'B' Coy BSAP was posted at Kiwanga an important crossing on the Mpanga River 20 miles to the North-West.¹⁶

Debilitated by sickness, Smuts' troops had been unable to reach Iringa. The German concentration to the East was such that for Northey's troops alone to press on to Mahenge would be to court disaster. Major Kraut was estimated to have available 200 Germans, 1,500 askari and 18 machine guns to the east of the Ruhuje. On 28 September he had unsuccessfully attacked Hawthorn with five companies.¹⁷

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Colonel H M Stennett NRP had been placed in administrative charge of the border area from Bismarcksburg to Fife. Between 26 and 31 July 'B' and 'D' companies, NRP, working north from Bismarcksburg occupied Kirando Island, where, on 30 June Capt James' 30 men impressed Cdr Spicer-Simpson by disembarking in 4 minutes, at Kala and were gradually securing the Ufipa country. Assisted for a time in August by Lt Withers' half of 'E' Company from Fife, they cleared the enemy from the area between Lake Tanganyika and Lake Rukwa to about eighty miles north of Bismarcksburg. Some 40 Germans and 300 askari remained around Mpimbwe and Kalema until, on 20 August, elements of the Northern Rhodesia Police under Major Walter Baxendale BSAP gained touch with the Belgians north-east of Mpimbwe. The Belgian advance on Tabora from the North and across Lake Tanganyika compelled the remaining enemy to withdraw.¹⁸

British troops from Lake Victoria were also advancing on Tabora on the Belgian left flank. Major General Wahle, in command at Tabora, was forced to fall back with his force of up to 2,500 men, to rejoin the main German concentration around Mahenge. He thus posed a serious threat to General Northey's thin line from Fife to Iringa. On 9 September Northey signalled to Baxendale to bring one of his companies to Rungwe. He arrived with 'D' Company and 35 men of 'E' Coy NRP on 29 September while the other half of 'E' Company reached Malangali the following day.¹⁹

On 30 September 1916 the five companies of the Northern Rhodesia Police serving with the Rhodesia Nyasaland Field Force totalled 23 officers, and 24 white, and 872 African, other ranks.²⁰

One of Wahle's columns was threatening Iringa held by Lt Col Rodger and his 2nd South African Rifles. On 7 October Northey gave orders for two 12 pdr naval guns to be withdrawn from Iringa to Ngominji, as he considered these would hamper Rodger

if he had to evacuate Iringa. 50 Northern Rhodesia Police were to garrison Ngominji. Maj Baxendale was to march to Iringa with two companies, escorting the 5th Field Battery, South African Mounted Riflemen. On the arrival, on 9 October, of the SAMR mountain guns and 180 NRP with four machine guns, the enemy moved off to the south-west. Sgt J F Simpson was sent north with 30 NRP and on 24 October met the advance guard of the South African Motor Cyclist Corps at Salimu. Lt Henniker-Gotley with 50 men was posted to the West near Alt Iringa.²¹

On 22 October in accordance with further telegraphic instructions from General Northey, Baxendale left Old Iringa with Lt Hornsby, 4 white other ranks and 56 African police with a machine-gun, to patrol south east towards Ngominji. On 23 October, only 6 miles from Ngominji, this force was ambushed by Leutnant Zingel of 26 Field Company with 200 men. Walter Baxendale, was shot through the heart. Hornsby seized a German officer and held him as a shield against enemy bayonets. Saddler Sergeant G C de W 'Rimpi' Taylor BSAP got the Maxim into action before being shot dead. A91 Pte E W Paterson BSAP pushed his body aside and resumed firing. Four NRP Africans were killed. The other 4 whites were wounded and three of them captured with a number of Africans. 23 of the patrol escaped including Cpl E A Green, a medical orderly.²²

Meanwhile on 22 October the enemy, 8 Field Company and three levy companies under Hauptmann Wintgens, had occupied the heights north of Ngominji with 3 guns and 8 machine guns. They overlooked the defensive position taken up by the garrison commander, Captain C H B Clarke SAMR, on a ridge above the supply depot. The Germans had cut the telegraph wire running north to Iringa and dispersed a convoy of porters marching from Ngominji to Iringa. When a wounded survivor brought the news of the defeat of Baxendale's patrol, it was found that the telegraph wire to the south had also been cut. Over the following days six German machine-guns on the heights beat down the fire of Clarke's 60 rifles. On 28 October the defenders repulsed an assault. Some South African engineers at the depot had improvised some hand grenades which were put to good use. However that night it was clear that the position was hopeless. Clarke gave permission for those who wished to try to escape to do so. 30 of the garrison crept out. On the morning of 29 October the remainder were overwhelmed by an attack by 8 and 29 Field Companies. Clarke and Lieutenant A M Bones SAMR were killed. The Germans were commanded by Oberleutnant Bauer who was severely wounded.²³

Cpl Green reached Iringa with the news of Baxendale's death and Lt Col Rodger took out 100 men reaching the scene of the ambush on 24 October. Attempting to relieve Ngominji he ran into an enemy force in difficult mountainous country and withdrew to await reinforcements. At last troops of General Smuts' main army had reached Iringa which was garrisoned by 40 of Rodger's South African Rifles and 30 NRP. Lt Col Freeth's 7th South African Infantry were immediately ordered to march on to assist Rodger but by then it was too late to save Ngominji. On 30 October Capt Sillitoe was placed in command of the area from Alt Iringa to Salimu. Lt Bremner was sent from

Alt Iringa to Dabaga to reinforce a detachment of 2nd South African Rifles. 2 Officers, 4 British other ranks, and 123 Africans of the NRP were with Rodger when he and Freeth were surrounded in the Muhange Hills on the night 30/31 October. Sgt Sell crept through the enemy lines to bring the news, but the enemy drew off next day having bitten off more than they could chew.²⁴

On the Ruhuje, Major Kraut was reported to have at his disposal 2, 5, 10, 15, 16, 19, and 25 Field Companies, 5 Schutzen Company, 'L' Company of police askari and 8 Schutzen Company, a mounted unit of 50 whites and 60 askari. On 15 October 1916 he had begun to close in on Mkapira (Kapira's). Mkapira was held by Murray and Hawthorn with 'C' Company, Northern Rhodesia Police, facing west, 'A' Company, British South Africa Police facing south and east, and five single companies of 1st King's African Rifles, four facing north and north-east and one between the NRP and the BSAP. On 21 October patrols made contact. On 22 October the Germans rushed a KAR post on Piquet Hill 2,500 yards west of the main position. From here they opened fire with a field gun. On 23 October the enemy completely invested the British position establishing a post five miles down the Lupembe Road. The Western defences came under close range machine-gun fire. But the garrison had less than a week's rations and would soon be needed elsewhere.

Hawthorn remained in contact with Lupembe by means of a field wireless set and was able to co-ordinate arrangements for a counter-attack. Careful reconnaissance found the swamps along the Mnyera River drying up. A covered approach was found to the north flank of the German position west of Mkapira and Rhodesian scouts under Capt Jones found an approach to the South-East. On the night 29/30 October the Rhodesians and Nyasalanders enveloped the German lines. Before dawn Lieutenant Harry Onyett led 36 BSAP in a silent assault at a deliberate trot with orders not to return enemy fire. The German forward pickets immediately retired. Then from their rifle pits the enemy askari broke and ran. The German officers and NCOs in machine-gun emplacements went on firing to the last. At the same time two KAR companies successfully stormed Piquet Hill. Captain Galbraith with 'D' Company 1 KAR had been posted at Risinga west of the German block on the Lupembe Road. Joined by Capt Fair on 20 October, he now attacked along the Mnyera River. In the centre the Germans held out until 8.30am when resistance collapsed and Kraut's troops scattered into the bush in small parties making for the river crossings on the Ruhuje.

By noon the fighting was ended. Five Germans and 37 of their askari had been killed and six Germans and 76 native troops captured, together with a six centimetre gun, three machine guns, and a quantity of stores and ammunition. Most of the enemy casualties were from 10th and 25th field companies and 5th Schutzen Company but personnel of the 2nd, 5th, 19th and 'L' field companies were also identified. Kraut's offensive power was, for the time being, crippled, at a cost of one KAR officer, 2 askari and 4 BSAP troopers killed and 14 all ranks wounded.²⁵

On 1 November Murray's Column marched away from Mkapira up the Mnyera Valley and climbed the escarpment to reach Lupembe on 4 November. On 6 November Captain Fair NRP was ordered to march with his company to Malangali, some sixty miles to the North-West. Here the supply depot was defended by a raw company of about 80 of the Rhodesia Native Regiment and 38 KAR, all under Captain Marriott SAR. On 7 November German scouts were on the surrounding hills and when Fair came up on 8 November the telegraph had been cut and the place was invested by General Wahle with Hauptmann Langen's 7th and 26th field companies. Shells set the food store alight but the spirits of the garrison had been raised by the sight of General Northey's first and only aircraft which dropped a bomb on the German bivouacs. Being in insufficient strength to break through, let alone raise the siege, Fair took up a concealed position about six miles south on the Njombe road.

Thanks to the efforts of the South African Engineers and native labour, the road between Neu Langenburg, Iringa and Lupembe had been declared fit for motor transport on 1 November. Northey had had 50 light lorries, Hupmobiles and Fords, assembled at Neu Langenburg and despatched to Lupembe where they arrived on the evening of 8 November. On the morning of 9 November Murray embussed 100 BSAP and 30 NRP with four machine guns and moved off at the highest possible speed via Njombe and Muawindi. By nightfall having driven 120 miles over very rough roads they were 5 miles short of Malangali when firing was heard. The troops de-bussed and bivouaced under cover. The vehicles returned to Buhora for supplies. In the morning reconnaissance showed the enemy too strong for an attack without Charles Fair's company the location of which was unknown to Murray. He had to be content with harassing the enemy. The two police forces made contact on the night 11/12 November but Wahle had by then made touch with Kraut and the greater part of the General's troops had been observed marching off south to join his compatriote. In the morning Murray and Fair closed in on the rearguard, 26th and 'D' field companies, and made a surprise attack from the south-west. By then the Rhodesia Native Regiment had suffered two killed and four wounded. The BSAP and NRP had four men wounded. Two Germans and nine of their askari were killed. Seven Germans and 10 askari were made prisoner. Dr Schnee, the Governor of German East Africa recorded that the abortive siege cost them 38 casualties. One machine-gun, 39 cattle, 15 donkeys and mules and 72 porters were also captured.²⁶

On 10 November Lieutenant Percy Wardroper NRP had been sent from Lupembe with the remainder of Murray's Column, 110 NRP and 25 BSAP, to reinforce Njombe. Wahle was now heading for Njombe and Langen for Lupembe. Lupembe was now only garrisoned by some 50 whites and 200 Northern Rhodesian Bemba recruits in training for the expansion of 1 KAR. Lt Col Hawthorn and 1 KAR had been ordered on 9 November to withdraw from Mkapira to Lupembe. Murray left Malangali by motor vehicle on 13 November reaching Njombe the following day. On 12 November Hauptmann Wintgens column had invested Lupembe. Before dawn on 13 November an assault on the main position was repulsed although it was pressed hard, five of the Bemba being bayoneted in their trenches. On 16 November Murray set out

marching east on Lupembe without waiting for Fair's men who arrived near Njombe later. At 11am at Hawanga Murray encountered OberstLeutnant Huebner, with 200 men and 2 machine-guns. At 2.45 the Rhodesian attack was driven home. The Germans dispersed into the bush leaving three whites and 10 Africans dead. 3 Germans and 4 askari were captured while Murray lost one man killed and 4 wounded. On 19 November Murray was within 10 miles of Lupembe and in touch with Hawthorn who had relieved the garrison.

The German built post was a strong one on a high ridge with steep slopes to north and south and a deep gully on the west. The garrison had four machine-guns and three muzzle-loading 7 pounder mountain guns. The recruits had their women and children with them and the garrison was also encumbered with 50 enemy prisoners of war. In the first assault the Germans had captured an outpost and manned it with snipers. Shellfire brought down the wireless masts cutting communications with the outside. At 4am on 14 November the enemy attacked up the gradual eastern slope but were halted by intense fire from the trenches. Then a determined assault on the north face brought them right up to the barbed wire defences but no further. The garrison was subjected to galling machine gun and sniper fire that night and the following day but despite their inexperience the Bemba had won. Over the next few days they saw Wahle's columns with their carriers and cattle withdrawing across the hills to the north-east. The enemy abandoned a 12 pdr gun they had captured at Ngominji. Among the garrison was Sergeant Cecil Barton Northern Rhodesia Rifles attached to the NRP who was reported to have mown down 40 of the enemy with his machine guns and to have commanded several small parties of men with great coolness and ability. He was awarded the DCM and commissioned as machine gun officer in the 1st Battalion, 1st King's African Rifles. In all 6 Germans and 42 enemy askari were killed.²⁷

Murray's force was moved back to Njombe by motor vehicle. 'A' and 'B' companies, British South Africa Police, 110 rifles and 6 machine guns now took post at Emmaburg under Captain Hendry SRV. Major Carbutt's company of the Rhodesia Native Regiment, 120 men with three maxims was at Buhora. Captain Charles Fair with 'A' and 'C' companies, 240 Northern Rhodesia Police, with six machine guns was at Njombe. By the morning of 25 November all three of these forces had closed in on Ilembule, twenty miles north-west of Njombe. They engaged the troops of Oberstleutnant AD Franz Huebner, a retired infantry officer, who had established himself there. Capt Fair's men opened fire from maxims from trenches dug in the night within 1200 yards of the mission buildings. The next night two sections of 'A' Company NRP under Lt G C Latham pushed right into the enemy position and gained control of his water supply in the bed of the Halali River. On 26 November the Germans tried to shell Latham's men out of the riverbed but they had dug in deep and Sgt Lochner BSAP silenced the enemy gun with his Maxim. Huebner was thus compelled to surrender unconditionally that afternoon with 6 other officers 48 German other ranks, and 249 askari of the 8th and 22nd field companies, 3 maxims and a 10.2cm howitzer, the largest the NRP had encountered. For once the fish had been

netted! Rhodesian casualties were six wounded.²⁸

The Rhodesia Native Regiment had been raised at Salisbury in April 1916. Its officers and European NCOs had all been drawn from the British South Africa Police and the Southern Rhodesia Native Affairs Department. To a cadre of fifty native policemen of the BSAP were added 408 African recruits, 290 being migrant workers from Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland and the remainder natives of Southern Rhodesia. On 18th July the half trained regiment had left for the North with a view to completing its training at Neu Langenburg. Its Commanding Officer was Lieutenant Colonel A J Tomlinson who had commanded the BSAP detachment at Sesheke in July 1915.²⁹

Back in the Bismarcksburg District Capt James and 'B' Company NRP had also had success. They had tracked down and, on 22 November 1916, captured 7 German officers, 47 other whites and 249 askari. Enemy morale was beginning to crumble.³⁰

After their success at Ilembule 'A' and 'C' companies were joined at rest at Njombe by 'D' and 'E' and a draft under Lt Allport, back from UK leave. Here the companies were reorganised on a tribal basis. The Ngoni were separated into a new 'F' Company under Capt Hornsby. On 10 December one company with two machine guns was sent to Mbejera, thirty miles south-east of Ubena, to watch the right flank and cover the collection of food supplies in the country to the west.³¹

On 23 December all five companies and the BSAP, some 900 rifles with 8 machine guns, marched out eastwards from Lupembe under Murray, who had been awarded the DSO. The plan was for Hawthorn and Murray, in conjunction with a force from Iringa under Major General Van Deventer, to drive the enemy behind the line of the Kilombero River, which was to be held until the end of the rains. Brigadier General Northey hoped his two columns would surround and destroy the enemy force immediately opposed to them, under Major Langen. Struggling through the wet bush the Rhodesians were foiled in three successive attempts to outflank and surround their opponents. On 2 January 1917 at Mfirika, there was, as described by Northey, a spectacular fight. While Hawthorn worked round to the North, Capt Fair was to go round to the South to get astride the Sylvester Falls Road in the enemy's rear. Being unable to force a passage Fair attacked Road Hill from the South-West. The supports came up and under cover of machine gun fire overhead from ridge to ridge, 'E' Coy Northern Rhodesia Police, supported by British South Africa Police, 120 men, crept down the wooded gullies and up a spur held by the enemy. At 5 pm the charge was sounded and they went in cheering with the bayonet. The enemy fled into dense bush. Four of the attackers were wounded including Sgt Messum, shot in the groin and Dawes in the abdomen, both later commissioned in the NRP. For three days Messum was carried in a machila to the field hospital at Njombe. Sgt Ellis was shot in the face. ³²

On 3 January Murray found Langen reinforced by Major Kraut in a new position at

Mtaramgunda Hill between Kirefi and Kafeke on the Mahenge road. On 4 January 'F' Coy forced an enemy piquet to retire and attacked his left flank at dusk, meeting furious fire. On the 5th 'E' and 'F' coys continued the attack in intense heat and heavy rain, supported by mountain guns of the SAMR. The enemy front and right flank were located but the wily Germans did not wait to be surrounded and on 7 January Capt Withers found the position empty.³³

On 11 January Major Kraut turned off the Mahenge Road near Njama. Murray's Column was diverted to Ifinga with instructions to drive Kraut out of the upper Ruhuje Valley which he was using as a foraging ground. After a skirmish at Malawi's on 13 January the Rhodesians reached the river to find the bridge severely damaged. On 15 January Capt Fair's advanced troops rushed the bridge, brushing aside a piquet. He occupied a hill on the South Bank holding off an attack from the East. 'C' and 'F' coys under Capt Hornsby came up to the West of Ifinga which was strongly held. On 17 January Fair attacked and Kraut retired 1,500 yards to the hills to the South. By repeated actions in incessant rain the NRP and BSAP drove the enemy north-eastward down the valley. On 22 January Murray advanced from Ifinga to encircle Kraut's four companies but on the night 23/24 January they slipped away south-east towards Mputa, destroying the bridge at Muesa. Encountering a 50 man rearguard at a ford on the River 'F' Coy lost 4 men killed, including Sgt J F Simpson and S111 Pte Pensulo, and Lt R D N Latimer and 4 men wounded, dislodging it. By 28 January Kraut was at Mputa. On 2 February Capt Hornsby's advance was checked by outposts on the Pitu River. The advance had been over boggy tracks and swollen streams with scant food. One private was killed and several wounded by booby traps when looking for food. Murray's supplies were now exhausted. He had been unable to make touch with Col Byron who was operating from Songea. The direction of the enemy's position was uncertain. Kraut had retired to Mpepo and having found scant food in the wild hills and dense bush his force had broken up into foraging parties among the scattered villages. On 5 February Murray's Column was ordered back to relieve 1/1 KAR garrisoning posts east and south of Lupembe.³⁴

On 20 January 1917 Major General A R Hoskins³⁵ had succeeded General Smuts as Commander-in-Chief. His army in the north was crippled by fever among the white and Indian troops and unable to resume offensive operations until the rains ended. The King's African Rifles were in the process of expansion and reorganisation; the first four regiments each forming second, and later third and fourth battalions. The Nyasaland-Rhodesia Field Force therefore had to bear the burden of keeping the enemy on the run and gradually wearing him down.

The 5th South African Infantry, reduced by battle casualties and sickness to 150 men, had been shipped from Dar es Salaam to Durban where 600 raw recruits were embarked. The battalion was landed at Beira in Mozambique and travelled via Fort Johnston, Nyasaland, to Songea where it completed its concentration by the end of November 1916. Here the Commanding Officer, Col Byron was also given command of half the Rhodesia Native Regiment and a band of irregulars raised and

commanded by Captain J J McCarthy MC NRP. On 15 December Byron was ordered to take the offensive towards Kitanda. On 20 December the enemy evacuated Nyamabengo and retreated towards Likuyu pursued for two days by McCarthy with his own men and "A" Coy 5 SAI. He had great difficulty in crossing the swollen Luwegu River. On 24 December, having received information of German reinforcements, Byron recalled McCarthy to Songea. On 5 January 1917 the South Africans took Gumbiro, 50 miles north of Songea, capturing 12,000lbs of corn which the Germans had been using female forced labour to grind. On 7 January the RNR occupied Kitanda.³⁶

Byron placed McCarthy in command of two companies of 5 SAI and one of the Rhodesian Native Regiment giving him 10 officers, 461 other ranks and 5 machine guns in addition to his Ruga Ruga. By 16 January McCarthy, now with the rank of major, had skilfully encircled the 7th and 12th field companies at Likuyu, cutting the road two miles to the north-east. Despite heavy rain and the lack of training of the troops under his command, McCarthy closed in, seizing successive points of vantage, until on 24 January the German commander Major von Grawert surrendered with 3 other officers, 37 white other ranks and 202 askari, having destroyed his 2 machine guns and an 88 millimetre gun. Described as the most gratifying success yet achieved in the area, McCarthy's victory had been achieved at a cost of 9 South Africans killed and 8 wounded and one African of the RNR killed.³⁷

He sent back his prisoners to Songea and immediately marched to Kitanda where 230 men of the Rhodesia Native Regiment under Lt Col Tomlinson were battling to hold off Hauptmann Wintgens reinforced by some of Kraut's troops, a total of seven field companies. Crossing the still swollen River Luwegu McCarthy arrived on 28 January. On 29th January he sent in a patrol but his main attack was driven back. On 30 January, after dark, McCarthy advanced through the enemy lines to join Tomlinson and dug in in an adjoining position. On 4 February, having no more food, the Germans marched away. Total British casualties were 2 officers and 23 other ranks killed, 2 officers and 44 O.R.s wounded and 18 missing.

Max Wintgens had 500 to 700 combatant troops, 13 machine guns and three small guns. His askari were all from around Tabora. They were becoming demoralised and mutinous. While Kraut moved south and east along the Rovuma to find sanctuary at Tunduru, Wintgens set out north-west to break through Northey's sparse cordon and make for Tabora, the only direction in which his askari would follow him.

His move came to Northey's attention on 14 February when a 35 strong foraging party appeared at Milow Mission, halfway between Wiedhafen and Tandala on the road over the mountains from Njombe, Northey's HQ, to Alt Langenburg. Tandala and Alt Langenburg were each garrisoned by about 100 convalescents, Njombe by the Headquarters staff and details. On 16 January 'B' Company Northern Rhodesia Police under Captain F S James had been ordered forward from Bismarcksburg to

garrison Neu Langenburg where it arrived on 21 February, detaching a section to Mwaya on Lake Nyasa. Murray's Column had reached Ifinga. HQ 1/1 KAR was still at Lupembe with companies deployed to the east. Northey ordered 1/1 KAR to Tandala via Njombe. Murray was to detach 'E' and 'F' companies NRP to garrison Lupembe, send two companies under Captain Dickinson cross country in pursuit of Wintgens, and follow 1/1 KAR with the rest of his troops.

On 16 February a patrol from Northey's HQ encountered a German detachment at Malangali, 10 miles north-west of Milow Mission. The following day the patrol attacked but was driven off with 50% casualties. Its withdrawal was covered by members of the South African Motor Cyclists Corps which had just joined Northey's command. It was in this action that the motor-cyclists' commanding officer, Lt Col J M Fairweather DSO, was shot dead. On 18 February a half company of 1/1 KAR reached Tandala by motor transport and was soon involved in desperate fighting until reinforced by two more companies on 20 February. The rest of the battalion arrived on 21 February followed by Murray the next day. When Dickinson marched in on the 25th the enemy were known to have gone off to the north-west. On 27 February two companies of KAR and Dickinson's detachment set off in pursuit up the Magoje Road, but were recalled to Tandala next day. Murray crossed Lake Nyasa from Alt Langenburg to Mwaya in order to cut Wintgens off at Old Utengele.³⁸

The Rhodesian Native Regiment had been shipped up the Lake on 28 February and was placed under Murray's command giving him some 830 rifles and 20 machine guns. The RNR under Lt Col Tomlinson reached Neu Langenburg on 6 March to find that Captain James with 'B' Coy NRP had advanced to the Igale Pass half way to Utengele. Tomlinson joined him there the next day. However Murray was concerned that Wintgens would raid into Northern Rhodesia and ordered James to march to Fife on 8 March. Northey now had two aircraft at his disposal but they were grounded by bad weather. Murray had no information on the enemy's whereabouts but he was believed to be marching from Magoje via Neu Utengele to Utengele. Leaving Captain Graham's company at Neu Langenburg, Murray, with the BSAP and the remaining company of the NRP, joined Tomlinson at Igale Pass on 10 March. On 9 and 10 March patrols on the Igale-Utengele Road dispersed two enemy foraging parties and learnt that Wintgens was bridging rivers north and north-east of Utengele and that he had promised to disband his askari at Tabora. James had just arrived at Fife. Murray ordered him to march immediately to Mbosi to watch the Bismarcksburg road at the crossing over the Songwe River, destroy the bridge at St Moritz and watch the road to Fife.

Knowing this to be too much to ask of 150 men, Murray also ordered the RNR, 250 men with 6 machine guns, to Mbosi. Marching through heavy rain and swamps Tomlinson arrived on the morning of 14 March to find that James had moved on to the Utengele-Bismarcksburg road. On 15 March Tomlinson despatched Major Carbutt's company to Panda Hill where the Bismarcksburg road crossed the Songwe. That afternoon Tomlinson followed with the rest of the Rhodesia Native Regiment on short rations. In the evening Murray entered Utengele driving out the German

rearguard. That night he ordered Tomlinson back to Mbosi and to march on St Moritz Mission, Galula, where the enemy appeared to be heading. On 17 March Tomlinson routed an enemy foraging party at Ndolesi on the Bismarcksburg Road capturing 8,000 rounds of ammunition and some machine gun spares but losing one officer and two other ranks wounded. During the engagement all Tomlinson's carriers fled which was not a good omen. At Ndolesi he was joined by Capt. James who had captured Leutnant Wahle, son of the major general. Tomlinson and James marched on together towards St Moritz

General Northey's instructions were for Murray to concentrate with the Rhodesia Native Regiment to the west of the enemy position. He was not to risk an attack in detail but to close in to restrict the area in which Wintgens could forage. Meanwhile 1/1 KAR now under Major G L Baxter³⁹, Cameron Highlanders, was being sent to bar the German from returning east. The only route the enemy could take to the North was the bridge over the flooded Songwe at St Moritz. This was also to be blocked by 1/1 KAR.

Things did not go according to plan! Delayed by a bridge washed away Murray on 19 March was fifteen miles behind down the Itaka-St Moritz track when Tomlinson was within a few miles of the Mission. Murray sent Lieutenant Wardroper NRP to warn Tomlinson not to commit his force to a premature engagement. He was too late. While Lieutenant Baker RNR and Sergeant Bainbridge NRP were reconnoitring towards St Moritz, Wintgens was out stalking Tomlinson. On the afternoon of 20 March Maj Addison RNR's advance guard was attacked on the Itaka-St Moritz Track, a few miles short of the mission⁴⁰. Capt James led 'B' Coy NRP forward to reinforce him. There followed a hot fight in which the German troops, boldly and skillfully handled, worked round Tomlinson's flanks. James was severely wounded and Lt Burton took command of the NRP with Sgt Bainbridge holding off an attack on the left. Tomlinson decided to withdraw for the night but being too far from the hills to the South, dug in on the plain behind a stream. Here he was quickly surrounded after having been severely harassed and charged repeatedly during the withdrawal. Two machine guns fell into enemy hands and a third was cut off and taken the next day. Outfought and considerably shaken Tomlinson's force retired a further short distance on 21 March but found the road to Itaka cut. Reconnaissance at dawn on 22 March showed that the dressing station was in enemy hands. A parley in the morning led to the return of the wounded and medical staff in the afternoon. The enemy provided stretchers but retained most of the medical stores.

Hampered by his wounded whom he could not evacuate, with supplies low and carriers unreliable under fire, his men exhausted and dispirited, Tomlinson determined to remain on the defensive to await Murray. On the 22nd his troops repulsed an attack from the south-west. They were subjected to harassing fire throughout the 22nd and 23rd while the shortage of food became acute. Happily there was ample water. On 24 March firing was heard on the Itaka road and the enemy made an especially determined attack which was driven off. On the night of

25 March Tomlinson sent out a patrol under Lieutenant Booth who reached Murray on 26 March when signal communication was also effected. On the morning of 27th March the ordeal ended, Lt Langham NRP with his half-company being the first of the relieving force to arrive. They occupied the enemy trench across the stream⁴¹. Wintgens fell back to St Moritz. Baxter came up on 28th March. Tomlinson's force had suffered heavy casualties. As well as Capt James, 'B' Company NRP had lost LCpl Ulaya, who had been wounded at Saisi in 1915, killed, Gunner Holloway wounded and 19 African police wounded or missing. Lt Col Tomlinson had been suffering from blood poisoning for some days and was evacuated.

Murray, held up by bad weather, had received a signal on 21 March from the C-in-C, Hoskins, via Northey, telling him that "The rounding up of Wintgens is now of greater importance than anything else in the campaign....you have ample troops and must even live off the country if necessary." This overlooked the fact that the pursuing force had no option but to pass over land denuded of food by the pursued. On 23 March Capt Fair with 'A' Coy NRP and BSAP had encountered the enemy detachment blocking the road in Tomlinson's rear killing two Germans and recapturing 70 of the RNR's cattle for the loss of a splendid NCO, Sgt Gwiranipakamwa, killed. Murray telegraphed Baxter to hasten forward from Utengele with 1/1 KAR. On 24 March Murray made an unsuccessful attempt to work round the flank of the road block in very broken country, with thick bush and deep ravines.⁴²

On 28 March scouts reported that Wintgens had moved the missionaries from St Moritz west to St Bonifaz. The bridge at St Moritz was almost completely demolished and strongly defended. The river was in flood. On 29 and 30 March Murray felt his way forward on a wide front to envelop St Moritz from the South-West. He bridged rivers on his right so as to be able to prevent escape to the South-East but was also ready to march back to Itaka, the driest and best route to St Bonifaz. Meanwhile Wintgens had already transferred his HQ to Iwunga on the Southern Shore of Lake Rukwa. On 29 March the Germans made a final raid on 1/1 KAR's rear echelon at Utengele. On 30 March Maj Fair encountered a piquet dug in on the left bank of the river 2,000 yards south of the Mission and drove it in. The NRP, under Fair, supported by the BSAP advanced on the enemy main position but some 600 yards from the mission buildings came under heavy machine gun and rifle fire from concealed positions and was forced to retire on the supports. Wintgens made an unsuccessful attack on Murray's left flank which was extended by 'A' Coy 1/1 KAR. Sgt S N Whyte BSAP in command of a section of NRP held an isolated position about 300 yards from the enemy under heavy fire. Though forced back he later regained his ground. He was awarded the Italian Bronze Medal for this action. On 31 March the RNR came up freeing Baxter's troops to further extend the left flank. The NRP again drove in an enemy piquet. Seven African police died in those two days.

On 1 April a patrol of 1/1 KAR found the Mission evacuated. Wintgens had slipped away over the St Moritz Bridge. That evening he was 30 miles away towards the Sira River. The bridge having been repaired the NRP and BSAP led the advance across

the Songwe next day and came up with the enemy rearguards on 3 April in the swampy area near the junction of the Sira and Lupa rivers. The Lupa, in high flood, was bridged and crossed on 5 April but difficulties over supplies and carriers increased with every step. 600 extra carriers were required for each 50 miles advanced. Murray was never again able to close with Wintgens. On 8 April, when Murray was at Iwungu, Wintgens was 45 miles ahead at Panzi. On 1 May Murray was on the Kondo River with one company of NRP 25 miles ahead towards Kawere. On 7 May Capt Burton's 'B' Coy was on the Kawere Road, 8 miles west of the main force. On 10 May these detachments were recalled, Burton being ordered to join 1/1 KAR at Nkindu. On 16 May contact was made with the South African Cape Corps Battalion based on the Central Railway. On 21 May 1/1 KAR left Kitundu having been ordered to return to Njombe. On 28 May the Rhodesians reached the Ngluva River some 35 miles south of Sikonge, and only three days march from Tabora. Having no prospect of closing with the enemy, they were then recalled south. A force formed on the Central Railway was to take up the chase. On 21 May, racked with fever and exhaustion, Hauptmann Wintgens handed over his command and gave himself up to a Belgian unit. His successor, Oberleutnant Heinrich Naumann, remained active in the north until finally surrendering with nearly 200 men on 2 October 1917.⁴³

On the return march Murray's Column covered the 150 miles to Rungwe at an average of 17 miles a day arriving on 14 June. Here they were permitted a weeks rest. On 16 June 55 African police left for Fife to commence three months leave, the first in the Campaign. On 18 June 1917 the strength of the NRP companies under Murray's command was 11 officers 13 white NCOs, and 515 African police with 24 followers, personal servants etc, and 337 carriers. The Force was also represented in the Machine Gun Company of 5 officers, 26 white and 53 African other ranks with 7 followers and 265 carriers. The rains had ended. The plan was now to drive the enemy's main force across the Mahenge plateau south-east into the arms of a British force working inland from the Coast at Lindi.⁴⁴

On 26 April 1917 the London Gazette announced the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal to 575 Corporal Mambo NRP. Corporal Mambo, in command of a patrol, had been severely wounded in the knee, but maintained his position and drove off a strong force of the enemy.⁴⁵

On 25 June 1917 Murray's Column embarked at Mwaya for Wiedhafen. On 3 July Murray established his Headquarters at Songea with the BSAP, now only 56 strong, and three companies of NRP ('A' led by Maj Fair, 'B' Capt Burton & 'D' Capt Graham) giving a total of 400 men with 8 machine guns, as his reserve. On 27 June Major Fair assumed command of the NRP in the Field as a temporary lieutenant colonel. The Rhodesia Native Regiment, now under Major Carbutt, Murray posted at Kitanda. Lewis light machine guns were now becoming available in East Africa. Northey decided that the BSAP remaining fit for duty should be trained as Lewis gunners and attached to the NRP and RNR, each company of which would have two machine

guns and two Lewis guns.⁴⁶

'C' Company of the Northern Rhodesia Police joined 'E' under Captain Withers and 'F' now commanded by Captain Russell at Lupembe making 350 men and 6 machine guns all under Captain E G Dickinson of 'C' Coy. Dickinson was ordered to drive Hauptmann Aumann's detachment, "A", "L" and 5th field companies with an artillery detachment, a total of some 450 men, eastward across the Ruhuje. By activity on the left bank he was to contain the enemy on the Mpepo to Mkapira front and prevent them reinforcing Ruipa. On 27 June he arrived at Nalugombe. On 7 July he commenced his attack. By the 25th 'E' Coy had driven Aumann across the Ruhuje at Mkapira Drift. On 29 July Aumann drove in our piquet, recrossed the river and occupied the old Rhodesian trenches at Mkapira. Scouts and one section forced him to disclose his position and after a 30 minute fire fight Capt Russell and half 'F' Coy drove him out at the point of the bayonet. The enemy escaped into the thick grass and reeds of the river bed. Enemy fire prevented Capt Russell crossing in pursuit. He left a strong piquet at the crossing and reoccupied the hill.

On 7 August Acting Lieutenant Colonel Fair with 'A' Company NRP from Songea, joined 1st Rhodesia Native Regiment which had moved up from Kitanda to attack Aumann from the South. On 9 August 1917 Capt Latham, now in command of 'A' Coy, drove in 2 pickets before assaulting an enemy post at Tuturu, between Kitanda and Mpepo. Lieutenant Henry William Tarbutt, a pre-War BSAP trooper commissioned into the NRP from the BSAP service companies, was bayoneted in the throat and fell into the enemy trench. Two African police were killed within five yards of the German trenches and two Africans reported missing were later confirmed as dead. The enemy later retired but not before burying Tarbutt. On his grave marker a German wrote "Lt Tarbutt, "A" Coy N.R.Police. In honour of a brave man".⁴⁷

On 10 August while 'F' Coy demonstrated at Mkapira Drift, Dickinson crossed the Ruhuje with 'C' and 'E' coys by canoe, 5 miles upstream despite opposition from a troop of hippo. On 13th August 'A' Coy NRP and the Rhodesia Native Regiment joined Dickinson's three companies west of Mpepo. Lt Col Fair took command of the combined force.⁴⁸

Aumann was strongly entrenched on a ridge one mile north-west of Mpepo. On 17 August 'C', 'E' and 'F' coys dug in within 600 yards of his position with 'A' Coy in reserve while the RNR closed in from the South. 479 Corporal Samsoni and 835 Private Moto came into action with their machine gun under automatic fire 400 yards from the enemy position. Both were wounded but remained at their posts, bringing the gun out of action when the line retired. In 1919 Samsoni and Moto were awarded the DCM for this action and their conduct at the front from August 1915 to June 1918.⁴⁹

A combined attack from three directions at 6am on 19 August was stopped by machine gun fire which killed 4873 Machine Gun Porter Gwalia and wounded 3

others and 3 African police. On 26th August from within 100 yards of the enemy trenches 'E' and half 'F' Coy NRP, under Captains Withers and Russell, rushed an outlying post, Single Hill, north of Aumann's main position. They took it, and consolidated in time to beat off a vigorous counterattack by 'L' Field Company. It was police against police again as the enemy charged up to, and at one point, actually penetrated, the NRP's trenches. A German was heard shouting "Retire! Retire!" confusing the NRP asirikari but ptes Roelke and Brooks and Hasseriis and Long BSAP kept their two machine guns in action. A German NCO, an African sergeant-major and an askari were killed. Six enemy askari were taken prisoner together with their Company Commander, Oberleutnant Bauer, who died of wounds. The enemy were seen to carry off ten wounded askari. The NRP suffered 14 wounded.

Hauptmann Aumann obviously considered Single Hill to be the key to his position. After subjecting Withers' men to heavy machine gun fire all through the day of the 27 August, he abandoned Mpepo that night and broke out north-east to Likassa. Here Dickinson found him on the 29th entrenched on a wooded height near the Litete River. There was heavy fighting at close quarters. The enemy counterattacked and the RNR fell back exposing the flank of 'E' Coy NRP who withdrew on the local reserve. The Germans continued their desperate attack for 2 hours with great courage right into the lines of the NRP whose ammunition was almost exhausted. The medical staff were swamped. A/36 Pte P F M Roelke BSAP was killed while clearing a jam in his machine gun under heavy fire. General Northey recorded that Captain Dickinson handled his men very gallantly. Night fell with both sides dug in. Next morning Aumann had gone. The fight had been one of the fiercest yet experienced by the Northern Rhodesia Police who lost six Africans killed, and Sgt Bainbridge and two other Europeans and 14 Africans wounded, including Sgt Changamasase who with Sgt Africa was awarded the Military Medal. Two Germans were killed with 25 enemy askari and 73 wounded and unwounded prisoners were taken, at least 20 from each of Aumann's three companies. He also left behind a damaged revolver gun.⁵⁰

On 1 September the four companies of NRP with Lt Col Fair totalled 500 rifles and the 1st Rhodesia Native Regiment, 300. Aumann was retreating rapidly north-east towards Mahenge. Fair pursued him as far as supplies would allow and on 1 October was near Liheta, twenty five miles south-west of Mahenge. A few days later Belgian troops occupied Mahenge. Aumann turned south with his 'L' and 22nd Field Companies. On 14 October Cpl Songandewo and his 'C' Coy scouts attacked an enemy magazine, captured a German and marched him back cross country wearing only one boot. On 18 October Cpl Chakanga and 10 men of 'A' Coy rushed a piquet east of Ngombere held by a German and 10 Africans and captured 4 askari for the loss of Pte Chimai, killed. On 25 October the Northern Rhodesia Police joined the Belgians in an attack on two enemy companies found to be holding a hill at Sali Mission on the Ruaha. Pte Zalile was killed and Lt Latimer and two African police wounded. On 6 November 3 German officers, 142 white other ranks and 189 askari, all sick or convalescent, surrendered to Lt Col Fair at Kabati Moto. By the middle of November there were no German troops within reach. Fair was ordered to withdraw

and take over Mahenge from the Belgians. This he did with much ceremony on 25 November.⁵¹

Meanwhile on 4 September 1917 civil police elements around Neu Langenburg had been dealing with roving bands of enemy stragglers. On 15 September Fair had been ordered to send 160 of the Rhodesia Native Regiment back to Neu Langenburg to assist. Capt Graham with 'B' and 'D' companies NRP was watching the Songea Liwale Road with a detachment at Njenje. Major J J McCarthy DSO MC NRP with his well trained Ruga Ruga, in cooperation with the 5th South African Infantry under Lt Col Fulton, was holding a portion of Portuguese East Africa west of the Luchenda River, from which they had chased Willibald von Steumer. In October 54 men of the BSAP service companies had been invalided back to Southern Rhodesia. On 29 October Lt Col Stennett arrived at Mpukurasese to resume command of the NRP. He left there on 15 November with 105 men of the Depot Company and leaving garrisons of 20 men each at Mburugande, Njenje and Mirola, joined Murray on 21 November at Jumbe Faume. There were still detachments of NRP at Ubena, Lupembe, and Muhanga on garrison and police duty.⁵²

On 26 November Murray with 'B' and 'D' coys NRP, and 1/4 and 2/4 King's African Rifles, was around Tundururu with patrols on the Rovuma. Fair remained with 'A' Company to garrison Mahenge while his other three companies were ordered South to rejoin Murray. Murray's task was to prevent Major Tafel, who commanded a group of 13 companies, from joining with von Lettow, who was now in the angle formed by the Rovuma and the Indian Ocean. Murray never managed to close with Tafel, but his patrols captured every runner sent by one German commander to the other. Consequently neither knew the other's position or intentions. Tafel continued south-east through waterless and foodless country. By the time he realised that von Lettow had crossed his path, making south-west towards Ngomano on the Rovuma, it was too late to avoid Van Deventer's columns pursuing von Lettow from Lindi. On 29 November 1917 Major Tafel gave himself up, together with 111 Europeans, over 1,200 askari and about 2,200 carriers. Over 200 of his troops, with about 1,100 porters had already surrendered to 1/3 KAR on 27th November.⁵³

On 25 November von Lettow forded the Rovuma at Ngomano near its confluence with the Liyenda River. With him were 300 Germans, 1,700 askari and 3,000 porters. The river was 1,200 yards wide and chest high. The Portuguese guarding the frontier were scattered by a sudden attack. Hauptmann Goering, with three field companies, also crossed successfully further downstream.⁵⁴

Murray's task, with the NRP, 1st and 2nd Rhodesia Native Regiments, and the Ugandans of 1/4 and 2/4 KAR, was to hold the Songea and Tundururu districts and prevent the enemy doubling back into German East Africa. Posts were established on the Rovuma and patrols roved far to the South of the river as well as through the occupied territory. On 15 December Murray set up his headquarters at Songea. The greater part of the Northern Rhodesia Police concentrated at Lipumbi. Few of the

original British officers were still at duty with the battalion, which was now over 1,000 strong including headquarters staff and the base organisation although Lts Latimer, Neame and Jobling, Sgts Robertson and Sinclair and 142 African police were sick in hospital. After up to three years in the Field living mainly on corned beef and rice few of either race were regarded by the medical staff as in really good health. There were 24 African Police at Fife. Many of the 19 officers at the front were from the BSAP service companies, as were almost all the 14 European other ranks. The troops in the Field were now reorganised into a conventional "Service Battalion" of four double companies, with a machine gun company of 5 officers, 2 British NCOs and 65 African police under Captain A W M S 'Chilli' Griffin, a Stokes mortar company under Captain C E 'Anzac' Mills, Lewis gun sections totalling 49 men with one officer, signallers, scouts, medical and supply and transport sections. The men of 'E' and 'F' companies were split up among the other companies. The whole battalion was issued with 1908 web equipment less entrenching tools. The belt proved too large for most Africans. They suffered in wet weather due to a lack of groundsheets which were awaited from South Africa. By 19 December the reorganisation was complete and two patrols left for the Luchinga River. On 26 January 1918 Maj Fair and Capt Latham arrived at Lipumbi with 89 of the old 'A' Coy while Lt Gardiner left with 30 men to patrol to the Rovuma and remain at Mitomini with a platoon of the RNR.⁵⁵

Murray had developed serious heart trouble and been admitted to hospital in December. He was invalided south on 27 January 1918. Lt Col Stennett assumed command of the RNR and 3/4 KAR as well as the NRP until Colonel Clayton arrived to take Murray's place. Colonel Ronald Ernest Murray DSO and bar DCM never recovered his health and died in England on 29 June 1920.

On 11 February 1918 the Northern Rhodesia Police Service Battalion left Kigonsera for Mbamba Bay on Lake Nyasa for a well earned rest. 165 African police were granted three month's leave. The remainder trained on the new weapons and a number of patrols were sent out. The NRP were the lowest paid African troops so the announcement of a "War Bonus" was well received.

Back in Northern Rhodesia law and order were being maintained by the 120 remaining police, the district commissioners and their messengers. During 1917, 1,545 persons were prosecuted as a result of the work of the CID and Town and District Police and 1,427 convicted. From the BSAP had come three reinforcements. Constable J B Parkin attested on 1 October 1916, followed by D/Sgt E Rochard in January 1917, both had been with No.1 Mobile Column BSAP in 1914. Parkin was posted to Lusaka to relieve Const Lancaster for home leave. The detachment there under Sgt Maj Coote had 5 African police, two detectives and an interpreter. Each European farm in the District was visited every 6 weeks. 31 Europeans were prosecuted in 1917 and 29 convicted. Parkin was to serve with the Force for many years together with F J Willson who joined in February. There was a British sergeant at Magoye with 5 African police and a constable with an African detective at Kalomo. Sgt Maj Taylor was still at Broken Hill with a native detective, a sergeant, corporal,

lance corporal and 14 privates, his detachment having been increased by three in February 1916. There were seven African police at Mumbwa and a corporal and 12 men at Ndola.

There was still a small military detachment at Mongu in early 1917 but the only police elsewhere in Barotseland were the District Police at Balovale. There were District Police detachments of a sergeant, a corporal and 14 men at Fort Jameson, a corporal, bugler and 5 privates at Petauke and a lance corporal and 6 at Lundazi, but only the NCOs and bugler had any experience. The Bemba privates at these stations in 1914 had been sent to the Front in June 1916 and replaced by recruits.⁵⁶

In May 1917 Capt Ingles arrived in the Namwala District to recruit among the Mashukulumbwe. He met with little success before leaving for Livingstone in July prior to retirement from the Force and service in France. Ingles was relieved by the Mashukulumbwe's old District Commissioner, Capt Andrew Dale, crippled at Loos in 1915. Dale fared little better and advised that the attempt be abandoned. This was the first attempt to recruit members of this tribe since the early days of the Barotse Native Police. In later years the Ila proved themselves efficient soldiers and policemen.⁵⁷

In March 1917 a rebellion had broken out in the Tete Province of Portuguese East Africa. On 5 April 1917 the Portuguese administrator from Zumbo fled across the Zambezi to Feira from where the District Police detachment of a corporal and 8 men had been withdrawn in November 1916. The Native Commissioner at Feira was Captain C F Molyneux who had served at the Front with the NRRifles. Molyneux crossed the river and recovered a large quantity of arms which his guest had abandoned at Zumbo and organised a defence force on the Northern Rhodesia side. On 26 July 1917 Lieut B K Castor arrived from Livingstone with Sgt Francis, 43 African police and a Maxim. Leaving Francis at Feira, Castor with the machine gun and 32 men took post at Matambwa 36 miles up-river. There were no serious incursions but some 5,000 African refugees sought shelter in Northern Rhodesia where food was already short.⁵⁸

On 8 March 1918 Northern Rhodesia agreed to provide a platoon of NRP to police the Bismarcksburg District of the occupied German territory, at the expense of the United Kingdom Government.⁵⁹

In May 1918 Lieutenant Colonel H M Stennett DSO was invalided to Zomba with dysentery. Major Fair having departed on long leave on 9 April, Major E G Dickinson MC assumed command of the Service Battalion. On 6 May Lt Castor arrived at Mbamba Bay with 72 recruits from Livingstone followed shortly thereafter by Capt Castle with 106 men returning from leave, which was just as well, as on 27 May 1918 the NRP Service Battalion was ordered to join Colonel Hawthorn's column with the Rhodesia Native Regiment and 3/1 and 1/4 KAR to prevent von Lettow coming west into Nyasaland. By 1 June the whole Battalion had left Mbamba Bay by steamer for

Fort Johnston where it completed its concentration on 6 June. On the 10th they were rushed by motor vehicle to Limbe and from there marched past Mount Malanje into Portuguese territory in order to intercept the enemy commander at Alto Mulocque. The country was very difficult. They arrived to find that von Lettow had passed by and was already far to the South.⁶⁰

In July Major General Sir Edward Northey KCMG CB left on appointment as Governor of British East Africa. Hawthorn succeeded him in command of Norforce, as the Nyasaland Rhodesia Field Force was known in "signalese", with the temporary rank of Brigadier General. The NRP Service Battalion now joined the pursuit of von Lettow through Portuguese East Africa to the coast near Quelimane. The enemy doubled back north-east, cutting up 3/3 KAR at Namirrué on 22/23 July, and moving on to Chalaua. He crossed the Mulocque above Tipe and headed west into the area Ilee-Munevalia. On 8 August the Northern Rhodesia Police joined 1/3 KAR in a column under the command of Lt Col C G Durham, called Durcol.⁶¹

Durcol marched via Namezeze, Nametil and Calipo to Alto Ligonha. The situation was confused, but the enemy was apparently moving towards Regone to the West. At one stage the NRP were stranded by lack of food due to a transport breakdown and chicken pox among the carriers. Durcol was ordered to march parallel to his northern flank, to head off any attempt to make for the Rovuma. The NRP marched through the Inagu Hills and at the end of August was near Maloketera. On 24 August the enemy successfully engaged half of 2/4 KAR at Namarroe. On the 31 August he was repulsed by 1 and 2 KAR at Lioma, but cut through the Inagu Hills at Muanhupa. 1/4 KAR and the Rhodesia Native Regiment attempted to bar his passage of the Lurio River and all three battalions of 2 KAR (KARTUCOL) were in hot pursuit. On 11 September the NRP Service Battalion was ordered to march back to Fort Johnston, reaching camp at the Bar on 17 September. In three months they had marched 900 miles, without supply columns, living as best they could, and for much of the time in the sweltering coastal lowlands. On one occasion the NRP marched forty eight miles in thirty eight hours with only four hours sleep and no stragglers. At the end, when asked whether they could move on again that night, Lt Col Dickinson felt able to say that they could.⁶²

On 23 September 1918 the Battalion was moved across Lake Nyasa by steamer back to Mbamba Bay in the Songea District of German East Africa where 700 local carriers joined. As Hawthorn had realised, Von Lettow was heading north for his home territory. 'D' Coy was first to land and set off for Songea under 2/4 KAR. At 1am on 4 October the weakened NRP battalion, led by Capt Russell's 'B' Coy, was approaching Fusi, fifteen miles west of Songea on the Songea-Wiedhafen Road, near Perimiho Mission when Sgt Sinclair, on patrol, reported that four hours earlier the enemy had been two hours march to the South. Shortly after being overtaken by a Ford vanette, Russell and Lt Langham heard machine gun fire. Lt Col Dickinson tapped into the telephone line and ascertained that the vehicle had arrived at Songea riddled with bullets. Extra flankers and scouts were sent out and the advance

continued for a mile before the line was tapped again and found to have been cut. The battalion formed hollow square with the hospital, in a gravel pit, and stores and carriers in the centre though most of the local carriers soon decamped. Sgt Greenspan was sent forward with a patrol while the rest of 'B' Coy, extended each side of the road at three pace intervals and lay down in the long grass with bayonets fixed. Greenspan's patrol soon made contact when Pte Mwanabamba was shot in the face and killed. The patrol was driven back hotly pursued by the enemy who were repulsed by 'B' Coy with rapid fire and the bayonet. The enemy main force soon came up and his attack continued for five and a half hours, but von Lettow was unable to break through or outflank the NRP. Firing from another gravel pit Capt Mills' mortars put their bombs down just in front of the forward positions. While under heavy machine gun fire 640 Colour Sergeant Tegete set an outstanding example to all present, showing complete disregard of danger by walking up and down the line giving the men targets and controlling their fire. 399 Sergeant Chikusi set a fine example to his section under heavy machine gun and rifle fire and, according to the citation for his DCM, by encouraging the young askari, was largely instrumental in beating off the enemy attack. 451 C/Sgt Yasi, Langham's CSM, was awarded the Military Medal for carrying orders under fire and 421 Pte Kunenga for carrying ammunition. A/205 Sgt J Kohr BSAP attached NRP won the same award. Lieutenant L J Champion, commanding 'A' Coy, another pre-war BSAP trooper commissioned from the ranks of the service companies, died of wounds after this action. Privates 1699 Siyeya and S/33 Mwanabamba were killed and 12 African police wounded with one British NCO and two first line carriers. One man was missing believed killed.⁶³

After dark the Battalion withdrew to a stronger position on high ground, but von Lettow was not going to continue the action or await the arrival of British reinforcements. He marched by night round to the west of the NRP position and made for Peramiho Mission. According to Langham, the NRP's ammunition was so low that when Lt Gardiner was sent out with half 'C' Coy to find and follow the enemy spoor only sufficient ammunition could be got together for them for 50 rounds per man. The bodies of 4 enemy askari were found and two Germans, nine of their askari and 51 porters captured. Stragglers captured later said that 3 Germans and 9 askari had been killed and 4 Germans and 20 askari wounded.

2/4 KAR, Ugandans, under Lt Col Hill had now closed up from Songea and set off in pursuit still with 'D' Company NRP under command. The remainder of the NRP marched back to the lake shore immobilised by the desertion of the local carriers. It was impossible to supply more than one battalion moving overland and the lake steamers gave mobility. Unfortunately one of the three steamers chose this crucial time to break down. The Northern Rhodesia Police had to wait for the last of 1/4 KAR to be ferried north, but on 20 October they were on board ship bound for Mwaya at the head of the Lake.

Meanwhile on 17 October, 2/4 KAR had engaged the enemy rearguard south of Ubena. Entering the town on the 18th they found Major General Wahle and other

enemy sick and wounded left behind in the hospital. Von Lettow had made remarkable time up the Songea-Njombe Road. He still had his hard core of 1,600 German East African porters, mainly from the Wanyamwezi tribe, renowned as the best porters in Africa. They were also brave fighters, providing a mobile recruiting depot from which to make good casualties among his askari. Other carriers the German commander conscripted as he went along. But where was he going? Tabora seemed the most likely destination. The troops on the Central Railway were strengthened. The Nyasalanders of 1/2 KAR had been shipped up the coast from Porto Amelia to Dar es Salaam, and railed west. They were now shipped down Lake Tanganyika to Bismarcksburg. The route to Elizabethville was watched by a Belgian Brigade west of Lake Tanganyika. An invasion of Northern Rhodesia seemed unlikely, but the Territory was completely devoid of fighting troops. Accordingly two King's African Rifles battalions were withdrawn to Lindi, to take ship for Beira and entrain for Broken Hill. Whatever the enemy's destination it was judged that he might first wish to raid the supply depot at Fife. This was therefore to be the destination of the Northern Rhodesia Police Service Battalion.⁶⁴

On 24 October the first company, 'C' under Capt Allport, landed from the steamer Chauncey Maples at Mwaya and marched off immediately, half for Neu Langenburg and the remainder for Fife. The race was almost neck and neck. Finding a party of the enemy across the Stevenson Road, Allport took to the bush. He reached Fife at 8 p.m. on 31 October. Major B J Graham's company, which had come overland with 2/4 KAR, left that battalion at Neu Langenburg and reached Fife at 2.40 p.m. on 1 November 1918. Von Lettow attacked at 5.30 that afternoon from three sides, driving in the police pickets. Graham and Allport had made good use of the time available for entrenching. Reconnaissance showed the German commander that an assault on Fife would be too costly. He decided to merely shell the position in the hope of killing a large proportion of the garrison. He opened fire next morning with a Portuguese field gun, a trench mortar, which happily blew up on its second discharge, and ten machine guns. The defenders gave as good as they got. Private A G Charters BSAP handled his machine gun with great ability and coolness and although under heavy machine gun fire continued to search the enemy position, and succeeded in temporarily silencing the enemy's fire. When Acting Sergeant A J Moffat BSAP's emplacement was destroyed by machine gun fire, he moved his machine gun to an adjacent fire bay, and continued to search the enemy's position, eventually silencing the machine gun opposite him.⁶⁵

Charters and Moffat were later awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for their part in the defence of Fife as was a third member of the BSAP, a telegraphist at Fife. Pte G S Bouwer had been manning an advanced post on 30 October. When this had to be evacuated he remained close by, tapping out information with a vibrator until he saw an enemy patrol approaching. He then retired three miles to a position overlooking Fife and, although his carriers deserted he remained, passing back valuable information. For his conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Fife together with that already described at Fusi Village C/Sgt Tegete was also awarded

the DCM.

According to the Battalion war diary, Major General von Lettow-Vorbeck later said that during this action he had his narrowest escape from death. He lay on the ground for half an hour while machine gun fire almost parted the hair on the back of his head.⁶⁶

At midnight the wily enemy commander led his faithful troops off south-west for Kasama via Kayambi Mission. As General Van Deventer wrote in his final despatch, quoting von Moltke, "There are always three courses of action open to the enemy, and he usually takes the fourth". Northern Rhodesia was still virtually defenceless.

On 4 November Lt Col Dickinson was making for Fife from Mwaya with a third company of the Service Battalion when a telegraphist told him that the Germans had taken Fife and were en route for Kasama. Dickinson had started south to intercept them when he met an old headman who told him that Fife had not fallen. Dickinson turned north again in the hope of catching the enemy at Fife. Of course they had already gone.

On 2 November Captain Russell with 'B' Company NRP had joined 1/4 KAR near Mbosi. They now led that battalion into Fife. Here the two battalion commanders agreed that Captain Castor's 'D' Company of the NRP should also join 1/4 KAR. By nightfall 1/4 KAR had covered 11 miles to Mandala, where the body of an African policeman was found. CO 1/4 KAR was confident that with six companies he could engage the enemy decisively but on 5 November higher authority ordered the return of Captain Castor's company to the NRP Service Battalion which had been ordered to march to Abercorn. Thus weakened 1/4 KAR caught up with the German rearguard at Tumba on 6th November, capturing two machine guns. The enemy held the water. 'B' Coy NRP had been in reserve but made a successful attack enabling the KAR to camp over the water.

Lt Col E B B Hawkins, CO 1/4 KAR was lucky to have an NRP company with him as he had no map of the area other than in a small world atlas. At 1255hrs on 7 November Russell's company ran into the enemy rearguard in a thunderstorm. By 1500hrs they had driven them out of Kayambi Mission and secured the ridge beyond though Pte Kunengwa MM was badly wounded. On 8th November at the Mpanda River Lionel Smith, a cattle farmer from Saisi, offered his services as a guide. Smith had served as a temporary 2Lt in the NRP in 1915. He was able to lead the KAR down the old mail path, 14 miles shorter than the motor road followed to Kasama by von Lettow.⁶⁷

At Kasama there was only a supply officer, Lieutenant E J Leslie, with three lorries used to ferry supplies from the Chiwutu Depot on the Lukulu River, eleven NRP African convalescents and some soldiers serving sentences. Captain F S James, also recovering from wounds, had left for Abercorn on 31 October with all those fit for

service. Permission to release military prisoners from Kasama gaol was obtained by telegraph.⁶⁸

On 1 November the European women evacuated from Abercorn reached Kasama. On 2nd November Lieutenant Sibbold 2/1 KAR came in from Chinsali with some KAR recruits. The convalescents and askari from the gaol were added to his command giving him 50-60 men. On 4 November a motor reconnaissance reported that the Germans were at Luchinda which was burning. On the 5th the enemy were reported advancing on the White Fathers' Mission at Kayambi. Orders were received by wire to evacuate stores from Kasama.⁶⁹

The Native Commissioner, Hector Croad, sent the white women south 54 miles by lorry to the Chambezi Rubber Factory on their way to Mpika. He backloaded all cash and what ammunition there was, 30 miles to the Chiwutu Depot. From there much of it was removed by canoe to an island in the Bangweulu Swamps, well out of enemy reach. Having evacuated all military and European personnel and such warlike stores and supplies as he could by motor vehicle or porter, Croad obeyed telegraphic instructions to employ himself and his staff on intelligence work.

On Wednesday 6 November von Lettow was reported at Kayambi. On the 8th a scouting patrol of askari under Driver Weitz of the BSAP Motor Transport engaged the enemy on the Kalungu Stream, 20 miles north of Kasama. Weitz and Mr R Thornton, a farmer who had volunteered and been given command of a patrol on the Abercorn Road, withdrew on Lieutenant Sibbold's main position on the Milima Stream, six miles out, where he had a machine gun. Sibbold sent word to Leslie to burn all remaining stores in Kasama. At 5 pm Croad and Leslie left for the Lukulu Depot by motor car driven by Sergeant F Rumsey. During the night Sibbold's motley band on the Milima lost their nerve and faded away. During the next day he managed to get most of them back together at Nkolenfumu's village. Having regard to the composition of this force, not much could have been expected of it. Most of those from the gaol had been put there for desertion. The NRP convalescents behaved well when under fire on 11 November.⁷⁰

Von Lettow arrived at Kasama on 9 November. On the 10th Hector Croad drove up in a lorry with Rumsey. They were halted by trees felled across the road just outside the town. Reconnoitring, Croad at first thought the khaki clad troops he could see were KAR and nearly walked in. Just in time he and Rumsey noticed a gang of African women being taken to draw water under guard. The two Britons returned to Chiwutu Depot by the new motor road while the enemy advance guard was moving in the same direction by the older shorter track.

On 9, 10 and 11 November 1918, as much as possible of the supplies at Chiwutu Depot were sent by lorry or canoe another 24 miles to the Chambezi Rubber Factory.⁷¹

Croad wrote in September 1937: "At dusk on 11th November Mr Thornton, who had taken charge of the invalided Northern Rhodesia Police, fell back on Chiwutuwutu, and the natives in the rest of the canoes, who could hear the German guns to the north, cleared off down the river. At about 8 o'clock, having sent off the last lorry with loads, we poured what petrol was left over the rest and set fire to the stores. We walked off to the south as the first Germans came in from the north! At about 1 o'clock we were met on the road by Rumsey with one of the lorries. He brought me a wire from the Administrator in Livingstone informing me of the Armistice, but saying that we were to carry on till General van Deventer wired me instructions. On reaching the Chambezi we found they had managed to get two Maxims placed on the south of the river, but were wondering if they would work. On the morning of 13th November the German advance patrol started firing into the factory with Lewis guns, and very nearly bagged the late Mr Charles Simpson of the rubber factory. They were met by a quite good rattle from the south side, but as the Germans were quite concealed in the trees on the far side, nothing happened, and after a quarter of an hour firing ceased. About noon I got a wire from van Deventer for Von Lettow, with instructions to get in touch with him and deliver it. Spangenberg, in charge of the advance, received this. On the morning of the 14th I met General Von Lettow on the Chambezi. He asked me if I would assure him that van Deventer's wire was authentic, and then said he would carry out the instructions contained in it, i.e. to march his men back to Abercorn and lay down his arms there. The King's African Rifles were to follow him to Abercorn. Von Lettow wrote out, and asked me to arrange to have sent for him, a wire to the Kaiser in Berlin. I told him that Germany was declared a Republic and that the Kaiser had fled to Holland. He looked upset at this, but said his government would get it in any case. As he says in his book, he did not believe it. His original wire is now in the museum at Livingstone. The white prisoners were to be released in Kasama, and in the afternoon Spangenberg brought it in and handed over their native prisoners. I then returned to Kasama. The main body of the Germans was spread along the road from Chiwutuwutu to Kasama, and their rearguard had come in from Milima, six miles to the north of Kasama. Mr Russell, who was attached to the Northern Rhodesia Police (later Provincial Commissioner, Fort Jameson) had been in advance of the King's African Rifles and had had a scrap on the Milima with the German rearguard. The King's African Rifles did not reach Kasama and were camped out near Milima. The Germans told me they were upset at the loss of their best native gunner. Hauptmann Kohl and others told me they thought they were making for Broken Hill, and that if they had reached the railway line they would have destroyed it and followed it north into the Congo, or if they had met a force north of Broken Hill, they might have turned east to Fort Jameson and Nyasaland. I said they would have had trouble to get food in the Serenje country for their men, but they replied that they had information that they could find plenty in the villages near the Bangweulu Swamps. Their information as to the country was wonderfully accurate. Most of the native carriers were armed and could have been put into the firing line. Numbers of guns and much ammunition thrown away along the road between the Chambezi and Kasama were brought into Kasama by our own natives. I found three Maxims in the stream below my house in Kasama. Plenty of other weapons were, I think, found and never brought in. These

consisted of Portuguese rifles, .303s, and the old German Mausers. The Germans were well equipped with Portuguese and .303 ammunition. The next dry season, when the grass fires started, was like a small battle round Kasama as the cartridges exploded. Von Lettow's book on the campaign, as far as I was able to check it, seemed very accurate. 'The African Lakes' buildings in Kasama were destroyed by the Germans, who thought they were Government buildings. They had burnt part of the gaol and had made ready to burn the police camp buildings. The Government offices were burnt by some of our people before the Germans arrived."⁷²

1/4 KAR had reached the Milima Stream on 12 November with 'B' Coy NRP as its right forward company and engaged the German rearguard. Crossing the Milima, Capt. Russell's company with No.4 Coy ¼ KAR found themselves between the rearguard and Kasama and engaged in a fierce firefight before withdrawing for the night. Cpl Kwendakubi of 'B' Coy who, knowing the township well, had been sent forward with a small patrol on 10 December, was already in Kasama. Lieutenant Colonel Hawkins had heard nothing of the Armistice and was deploying his troops to surround Kasama when at 11.30 am on 13 November a patrol of askari posted on the main road reported that two motorcyclists carrying white flags had come from the direction of Abercorn, and, in spite of their warning shouts, had gone forward towards the enemy. At 2.42 pm the advance point of the battalion, then four miles north of Kasama, met two German askari with a large white flag, bearing the telegram that von Lettow had received from the motorcyclists, announcing the Armistice.⁷³

Von Lettow wrote that he was met by one of the motorcyclists, when exploring the Chambezi River and Broken Hill road by himself. The telegram was dated 12 November and read:-

"Send following to Colonel Von Lettow Vorbeck under white flag. The Prime Minister of England has announced that an armistice was signed at 5 hours on November 11th, and that hostilities on all fronts cease at 11 hours on November 11th. I am ordering my troops to cease hostilities forthwith unless attacked and, of course I conclude that you will do the same. Conditions of armistice will be forwarded to you immediately I receive them. Meanwhile I suggest you should remain in your present vicinity in order to facilitate communication - General Van Deventer."

Von Lettow wrote: "Our feelings were very mixed. Personally, as I had no knowledge of the real state of affairs in Germany, I felt convinced that the conclusion of hostilities must have been favourable, or at least not unfavourable to Germany. Spangenberg's detachment, which was on ahead, had to be told as soon as possible, and I immediately set out on my bicycle after it, taking with me Haouter, a Landsturm soldier, as my sole companion. About half-way, Weissmann's cyclist patrol of Spangenberg's detachment met me and reported that Captain Spangenberg had arrived at the Chambezi. Although I had no doubts about the correctness of the English news, our position was very uncomfortable. We were in a district where

there was little food, and were therefore compelled to move on from place to place. This circumstance had already compelled us to reconnoitre and secure for ourselves the crossings of the Chambezi. If hostilities were resumed we must be certain of a safe crossing. This was a burning question, as the rainy season, meaning a great rise of this river, was near at hand. We had already encountered heavy storms. I had, therefore, much to discuss with Captain Spangenberg and the English officer who would presumably be on the far bank of the river. In any case, we must continue to devote our energies to buying or getting food. Full of that idea, I sent my companion back and cycled myself with Weissmann's patrol to Spangenberg's detachment. We arrived about eight o'clock when it was quite dark. Captain Spangenberg was away on a reconnaissance, but Assistant Paymaster Dohmen and other Europeans looked after me well as soon as they learnt of my arrival. I was able to convince myself that the supply depot of Kasama really existed. I tasted jam and other good things which had been unknown to me hitherto. When Captain Spangenberg came back he told me that he had already heard of the armistice through the English. After I had gone to bed in his tent, he brought me about midnight a telegram from General Van Deventer which had been brought in by the English."

This telegram ran as follows:-

"13.11.18 To Norforce. Karwunfor via Fife. Send following to Colonel Von Lettow Vorbeck under white flag: War Office London telegraphs that clause seventeen of the armistice signed by the German Govt. provides for unconditional surrender of all German forces operating in East Africa within one month from Nov. 11th.

My conditions are: First: hand over all allied prisoners in your hands, Europeans and natives, to the nearest body of British troops forthwith. Second: that you bring your forces to Abercorn without delay, as Abercorn is the nearest place at which I can supply you with food. Third: that you hand over all arms and ammunition to my representative at Abercorn. I will, however allow you and your officers and European ranks to retain their personal weapons for the present in consideration of the gallant fight you have made, provided that you bring your force to Abercorn without delay. Arrangements will be made at Abercorn to send all Germans to Morogoro and to repatriate German Askari. Kindly send an early answer giving probable date of arrival at Abercorn and numbers of German officers and men, Askari and followers."⁷⁴

Von Lettow's acceptance of the terms was handed to Lt Col Hawkins on the morning of 16 November. A few hours later the German column marched through the KAR camp for Abercorn. Capt Russell entered Kasama the next day to assess the situation in the township and discuss it with Hector Croad.

1/4 KAR set out for Abercorn at dawn on the 18th cheered on their way by 'B' Coy NRP which was to garrison Kasama where food was short. Not only had Russell's company and carriers to be fed but Hauptmann Spangenburg had been left to

assemble scattered enemy patrols and required food for their march to Abercorn. Russell sent out foraging parties in all directions and sent 275 carriers to the depot at the Chambezi Rubber Factory. Spangenburg and his men were able to set off on 19 November, with arrangements made for further supplies to meet him en route.

The rest of the Northern Rhodesia Police Service Battalion had been at Abercorn since 9 November. Brigadier General W F S Edwards CMG DSO had also arrived to deputise for Lieutenant General Van Deventer at the formal surrender. General Edwards had been commanding the British troops on the Central Railway in German East Africa. He had been Inspector General of Police in British East Africa and Uganda since 1908, and should not be confused with Brigadier General A H M Edwards, the Commandant General of Rhodesian Forces.⁷⁵

At 1030 am on 25 November 1918 General Edwards inspected a guard of honour formed by 25 men from each battalion on the Boma tennis court. At 11 am Major General von Lettow Vorbeck appeared at the head of his troops. He read out the terms of surrender in German to his officers and European non-commissioned officers and then repeated them in English. The German commander then offered his sword to General Edwards, who refused it, saying he had much pleasure in allowing the officers to retain their personal arms in view of the very gallant fight which they had made. Lt Col Dickinson and his adjutant, Capt Wardroper, accompanied General Edwards during the ceremony.⁷⁶

The enemy troops then grounded their arms and equipment and stacked their machine guns and ammunition before being marched off to their camp. With von Lettow at the surrender were Doctor Schnee, the Governor General of German East Africa, 20 combatant officers, six medical officers, a veterinary officer, a pharmacist, a field telegraph officer, 125 white other ranks, 1,168 askari, 1,522 native carriers and 819 women. The force was organised in nine field companies, three schutzen companies, a battery, five medical units, a field telegraph station, four ammunition columns, and a prisoner of war camp. The arms handed over were one Portuguese gun, 24 machine guns, 14 Lewis guns and 1,071 rifles, with 40 rounds of artillery ammunition and 208,000 rounds of small arms ammunition. Although the African troops appeared to be glad that the rigours of the campaign were over, the Germans themselves felt the surrender keenly.⁷⁷

On 26 November the NRP played 1/4 KAR at football. Neither team scored. On 16 December Lt Col Stennett arrived and demobilization commenced.⁷⁸

Von Lettow embarked for Europe on 17 January 1919. The German commander had spoken highly of the fighting qualities of the Northern Rhodesia Police, or as his native troops had described them to distinguish them from the Rhodesia Native Regiment, "The Old Askari."⁷⁹

OFFICERS & BRITISH OTHER RANKS NORTHERN RHODESIA POLICE JOINED
OR ATTACHED 1 MAY 1916-DECEMBER 1918

JONES Hugh Gerald MC(12.9.17) Tpr Salisby Rifles 96 BSAP 97 SR Customs 4.02
Collctr Customs NWR 21.9.05 NC 2.4.08 Insp Rhod Natives Katanga 1910-12.11 NC
Fife 28.9.13 T/Capt NRP 13.5.16 Political Offr Iringa 15.12.16 T/Hon Maj 1.5.17 rtd
'24

WOOD Lionel Evelyn Hickson ANC Fife T/Lt 22.5.16 asst to H G Jones relinq comm
Hon Lt 1.5.17

SIMPSON Jas Finerty 1RR SWA'14 A225 B Coy BSAP att NRP S/Sgt kia25.1.17
age 21

CHESNAYE Maj Christian Purefoy CBE see note Ch2 note 40

JORDAN Edwin Henry Knowles, Post & Tel Cape 97 Clk to Civ Commr Bwayo 8.03
Clk to DC Batoka 6.5.05 ANC 13.5.06 NC 15.9.11 T/Lt NRP Asst Political Offr
Kasanga GEA 24.6.16 T/Hon Capt 1.5.17 NC Chinsali'21

BAINBRIDGE Frederick 1804 Tpr BSAP'14 SRC 15 att NRP Sgt B Coy 16 w30.8.17
inv Salisby 17

DAWES Wm Henry 1RR A243 SRC w15 att2Sgt E/NRP 16 w2.1.17 MID(LG25.9.17)
Lt NRP'18 inv 11.18 Fmr Plumtree SR

ELLIS F C 1RR A241 SRC attE/NRP 5.16 w2.1.17

THOMAS Brian Jas b Bmghm 16.3.92 Tpr RD 1.7.09 BSAP 13.10.13 SRC att NRP
Sgt'16 MID 2/Sgt MGs NRP 1.1.19 CSM 6.2.24 RSM 25.9.26 rtd 33 father of F A
Thomas NRP 56 B B Thomas NRP 4.51

BARTON Cecil Algernon Bruce DCM(LG26.4.17) b Londn 12.3.91 Fm Asst
Lomagundi SR 10 FJ 1.06 NRRifles 14 SRC 15 Sgt att NRP CSgt T/Lt MGO 1/1KAR
17 Nyasald 19 Life Pres BESL Nyasald to SA 62 d5.1.73

PARKIN John Bingley MSM 33 b26.12.82 BSAP 29.7.10 Cpl No1 Mob Colm 14
Const NRP 1.10.16 2/Sgt 10.10.21 1/Sgt 12.8.24 SM WO2 1.1.25 Insp 1.4.28 rtd4.33

MESSUM Alfd Leslie bUK 93 Tpr BSAP 12 SRC 11.15 Sgt E Coy NRP w2.1.17 Pay
Office Salisby T/2Lt NRP 12.17 T/Lt 18.7.18 Lt 1.4.19 Capt 26.5.28 NRR rtd 33 SR d
post 73

LANGHAM Robt Wm Marsh MC(LG5.6.19) 1459 Tpr BSAP'11 A/SRC 16.8.15 Cpl T/
2Lt NRP 4.1.17 T/Lt 4.9.17 Lt 1.1.19 rsgnd 7.10.22 Hunter, Elephant Contrl Offr'34-47

LACEY John A38 A Coy BSAP Sgt T/2Lt NRP 10.1.17

LATIMER Roydon Digby Neville 1654 Tpr BSAP'12 SRC'15 Sgt T/2Lt NRP 10.1.17
w1.17 inv14.10.18 Clk Secretariat NR 19 ANC Tanganyika Dist'21

WILLSON Ferdinand John b Londn 20.12.88 1880 BSAP 27.7.14 Sgt NRP 7.2.17
WO2 D/Insp 1.1.23 A/WO1 1.12.26 C/Insp CID'27 rtd'32

WHYTE Stuart Norman A250 SRC Sgt att NRP 3.17 Italian Bronze Medal LG13.8.17
dschge 5.2.18

FRANCIS H (V?) A371 SRC Sgt att NRP 17 CClk Secretariat NR?

HICKS Jas Bracher Grenfell BSAP 9.12.11 NRP 1.4.17?

CHAMPION Leonard John b84 s/o J I Burnhm-on-Sea 1412 BSAP'11 Cpl B/SRC
22.8. 3Sgt 23.8.15 2Sgt 19.2. NRP 23.2.17 T/2Lt NRP 5.4.17 FrMM(LG31.8.17)
MiD25.9.17,5.6.18 dow Songea 4.10.18

GARDINER Cecil Senior 1494 BSAP'11 Cpl No.1 Mob Colm 14 Depot BSAP SRC
6.1.17 T/2Lt NRP 5.4.17 Lt 1.1.19 MID 5.6.19 Capt FJ 25.1.27 Salisby Hosp 8.27

appdx/gastric ulcer d brain abcess 18.10.27

TARBUTT Henry W s/o Henry Fison T 'Wayside' Onslow Cres Woking 1521

BSAP'11 SRC'15 Sgt T/2Lt NRP 5.4.17 kia9.8.17 Tuturu age 26

SIBALD Gerald Moverley 1799 BSAP 9.1.14 SRC 6.1.17 3Sgt NRP 4.4.17 2Lt KAR
1.7.17

NEAME Arthur Langley 1557 BSAP'12 SRC Sgt T/2Lt NRP 6.6.17

DALE Andrew Murray T/Capt NRP 13.6.17 see Chap 4 note 44 p74

STEVENS Edward William 1257 BSAP'10 Sgt SRC T/2Lt NRP 9.7.17

FUTTER A138 SRC MGs att NRP sl w16.8.17

ROELKE Philip Frank Max s/o M R of Raylton Bwayo A62 Pte A Coy BSAP kia
30.8.17 Likassa age 21

BROOKES Pte Chas MM(LG12.3.18) A277 pte SRC 1.16 w30.8.17 Likassa dschge
21.2.18

WINGHAM F 1692 Tpr BSAP'13 SRC Sgt w hand Likassa 30.8.17 to UK fthr trtmnt
age 27

FAIRBAIRN Aubrey John 1413 Tpr BSAP'11 Cpl SRC Sgt att NRP MID(25.9.17)

HENDERSON Walter John MSM(LG4.2.19) ed Kg Edwd's Sch Wantage, 1843
BSAP'14 SRC 12½ pdr gnr'15 att NRP Sgt MID 25.9.17 Lt Carrier Tpt 18-19 ANC
NR? Africa Star WW2

JOBLING Kenneth B NRGS 8.4.13 T/Lt NRP s28.2.18? ACommr Income Tax
22.3.21 Asherriff Reg Gen 21.5.22

FOSTER Sydney le Neve 1493 BSAP'11 rft SRC 3/Sgt att NRP

FRASER Andrew Wm 1622 BSAP'12 Sgt Staff Clk SRC sev w 10.16 T/Lt 7.11.17
MGO NRP-22.5.19 age 28

GOSLING Chas Henry Tpr BSAP 19.9.13 NRP 7.11.17

HIGH A66 SRC lve 3 mths 13.11.17

ROBERTSON John, Rlys 1RR A97 A Coy SRC 15 T/Sgt att NRP s31.12.17 MID
LG2.8.18

THOMSON John b Inverurie A149 SRC ASgt att NRP ddse10.11.17 age 38

SINCLAIR John Keir, Salisby 1RR A161 SRC Sgt inv31.12.17 MID LG3.6.19

McADAMS L B J A163 SRC T/2Lt NRP 18

DUNKLEY C C A191 SRC

KOHR John MM(4,10,18 LG28.3.19) A207 SRC Sgt LGs

LAPRAIK Jas 1RR A210 SRC Sig Sgt MID LG25.9.17 SM att NRP T/2Lt Sig Offr
13.5.18

HALL Hugh Lumley 'Harry' A257 SRC T/Lt C Coy NRP MID25.9.17'19 Elephant
Control Offr'34-k by elephant'36

WALKER Wm Henry Joshua MSM b82 Sheffield to SR'10 Mng Matabeleld SRV Pte
B Coy BSAP 1.16 Med Sec 4.17 SM att NRP 18 PWD NR 19 Insp PWD Mongu rtd
32 d55

HAUPT A299 SRC

SMITH A310 SRC s Zomba 7.12.17

BAXTER A312 SRC NRP Fwd Depot

CRIPWELL Henry Archer MID3.6.19 A313 A Coy BSAP 16 Sgt att NRP NC SR ltr
PC

GREENSPAN H Max OBE cattle business A242 SRC 20.8-civ 21.8.15 A317 13.1.17

SRC 3Sgt NRP 18.6.17 B Coy 2Sgt 1.9.18-20.4.19 Bwayo Rancher & businessman
 WAFF WW2 Maj
 MILNE D NRRifles 14 A319 SRC 16
 MAHER Thos Lane MM(LG3.7.19) Treasury Lstone No.24 NRRifles 12.14 A320
 SRC 5.2.17 3/Sgt att NRP 6.7.17 B Coy 2Sgt 1.9.18.
 BOUWER Gerhardus Schoeman DCM(LG11.3.20) A325 SRC 16 att NRP
 CHARTERS Alfd Graham DCM(LG11.3.20) A327 SRC LGs A/3/Sgt att NRP Const
 NRP 25.8.21-9.9.24
 MOFFAT Alexdr Jeffries DCM(LG11.3.20) A330 SRC ASgt LGs NRP 18
 SAUNDERS John Thos Hollinshead b6.7.94 2RR 16.7.15 A331 SRC 1.8.17-att
 NRP-2/Sgt NRP 1.1.19 Kasama d20.5.28 RTA
 SCHRONEN Christian Frederic 'Pop' MSM LG4.2.19 1457 Tpr BSAP 11 SRC att
 NRP Sgt MID LG2.8.18 CSM NRP 21.3.19 RSM 15.9.23 Hd Gaoler 1.9.26 rtd 39 f-in-
 law of L M Clark NRP'38
 WHITEHEAD John Cyril 1903 Tpr BSAP'14 SRC Sgt att NRP
 WRIGHT Wm s/o Chas of Chester 1864 BSAP 14 1RR 14 SRC Sgt att NRP drnd at
 Sea Kenilwth Castle 4.6.18 age 28
 SMITH Albert Augustus SMITH OBE20, 1623 BSAP 12 Ag/S/Insp SRC 15 Lt SO
 Sups Murray's Colm 17 QM SBn NRP 18 Lt P&QM 1.6.19 Capt QM & Cntrllr Govt
 Stores & Tpt 1.10.25 Cntrllr PWD 1.4.32 rtd 33 Pres Kitwe Chmbr of Commerce MLC
 39
 MILLS Chas Egerton 'ANZAC' MBE19 Mgr Leopard's Hill Estate Lka Sgt NRRif T/Lt
 27.4.15 SRC MGs; OC Mor Coy NRP 18-9 Capt JP 13.11.21 NRVF rsgnd 31.3.25
 hunter farmer cattle drover prospectr, Kanona GNRd dBH 46
 SANDFORD Thos Fredk CMG MBE BA, NERGS 7.11.08 ANC 26.9.10 AMag 1.4.13
 NRVF Capt OC B Coy FJ T/Capt NRP fr Repat duty 25.2.18 NC Lundazi'21 DC
 Ndola'27 PC Lka'34 Ndola'37 Lka'37 Sec NA; Ag Ch Sec'40
 MACKENZIE-KENNEDY Sir Henry Chas Donald Cleveland KCMG 39 BA b89 s/o
 Maj Gen ed Marlborough Cam, Cdt NR 7.12.12 ANC'15 NC 15.7.18 T/Lt NRP'18 Tpt
 Offr Svce Bn '18 NC Chilanga'24 Prin Asst to Ch Sec'27 Ch Sec'30 CMG 32 Ch Sec
 Tanganyika'35 Gov Nyasald'39 & Ch Political Offr EA Fces'39-40 Gov Mauritius'42
 rtd'49
 ALGAR Hugh Stanley b31.8.89 Tpr BSAP 10.12-Civ Clk NRP 4.10.15 T/Lt Ag P&QM
 1.4.18-9.5.19 Mag's Clk Kasama 27.6.20 rtd'37
 COPEMAN 2Lt 2i/c B Coy 11.18
 CRAXTON Mark Wm MM 959 BSAP'08 Sgt Town Police CQMS RNR CSM T/2Lt att
 NRP 25.10.18 A Coy
 HARPER Bertram 1391 BSAP'10 RNR Sgt ACSM T/2Lt att NRP 25.10 ddse Salisby
 26.10.18 never joined
 COOKE Arthur Mark 1665 BSAP'13 RNR 3/Sgt T/2Lt att NRP 6.11 18
 OLIVE Clifford Frank 1897 BSAP'14 D/Sgt NRP 1.11.18 dshge own req 31.3.24

NOTES CHAPTER 7

1.Official History pp192-4

Cdr Geoffrey Basil SPICER-SIMPSON DSO RN FRGS b Hobart'76 Cdt RN'88

Midshpmn'91 SLt'96 Lt'98 Bdy Comm NBorneo'01 Svy Uppr Yangtse'05-8 LtCdr'06

DSvy Gambia'10-14 SNO Downs'14 Admiralty Cdr'15 SNO Lke Tanganyika'15
Admiralty'16 A/Capt ADNavallnt'18 Gen Sec International Hydrographic Bureau'21
2.FM Jan Christian SMUTS PC 17 CH(30) FRS KC b24.5.70 ed Stellenbosch
Cambdge State Attorney SAR'98 Cmd Republcn Forces Cape 01 Colonial Sec Tvl'07
Min Interior & Mines'10 Min Dfce SA 12-20 Finance 12-13 GOC Sthn Army GSWA
14.4.15 Lt Gen CinC EA 16-War Cabinet'17 PM SA 19-24,39-48 d50
3.Official Hist p333,154, Haupt "Die Deutsche Schutztruppe" p86
4.Northey Papers IWM, Official Hist p190
Maj Gen Edwd NORTHEY GCMG'22 CB'17 FRGS FZS b28.5,68 s/o Rev ed Eton
RMC Lt KRRC India NWF 91-92 SA'99 CO 1KRRC Bvt Col T/BG 15Bde 2.3-
w22.6.15 GOC Nyasald-Rhodesia FF 29.1.16 Maj Gen 1.1.18 Gov Kenya 17.8.18
GOC 43Div'22 rtd'26 d25.12.53
5.Lt Col E RODGER DSO CO 2SAR 9.15
BG Geo Montague Philip HAWTHORN CBE 23 DSO 16 b16.12.73 ed Harrow 2Lt
King's'94 Ashanti'00 Somalild'02-4 IG KAR'19 rtd 23
6.C W BRIGGS SR PWD 8.99 Engr i/c Rds 12.02 d pneumonia Bournemouth
30.6.21
Maj Chas DULY DSO 1900 b Hastings 1.1.70 Tpr BFF'96 OC Cyclists Rhod Contgt
SA, Garage Proptr, OC MT BSAP'15
7.Murray's Colmn War Diary PRO WO/95/5334 CAB/45/9, Langham NRJ No.IV Vol II
p85 pw U/O Nicholas Mauser w Schutze Fredk Stiegert w, August Garnow PRO CO/
417/574
8.PRO CAB/45/20 CO/417/585, Messum papers Liddle Collection
9.Story NRR pp57-60 Res Leutnant Heinrich Hasslacher Civ Svt GEA
10.Report Spicer-Simpson PRO CO/417/576
11.Official History p465
12.Northey IWM
13.Official Hist p484 n.2, NRP PRO CAB/45/9
Hauptmann Friedrich BRAUNSCHWEIG Hptmn Schutztruppe EA 1.10.13 OC 14FK
Mwansa in 8.14
14.Parson PRO CAB/45/20 NRP CAB/45/9
15.Messum, Liddle Collection
No.1656 Tpr Arthur Leonard BRADBURY BSAP s/o Arthur B of Wandswth
kia30.10.16 age 24, A272 Pte Felix Joseph HAMPSON bKg Wm's Town CP s/o
Christina H of Pt Elisabeth kia30.10.16
16.Parson PRO CAB/45/20
17.Norforce War Diary PRO
Maj Georg KRAUT Hptmn Schutztruppe EA 27.1.06 S/Capt & OC Ger/Brit Bdy
Comm in 8.14 Maj OC Bn BEA Bdr, OC Abteilung Kraut 2i/c at surrender 11.18
18.PRO CAB/45/9
19.Draft Offical Hist PRO CAB/44/4 gives Wahle 2,000-2,500 with as many carriers,
History KAR says 2,000 men or more
20.Official Hist p505 n.3
21.War Diary Iringa Colm PRO WO/95/5334, CAB/44/4
22. Lt Joseph ZINGEL Mag Bismarcksburg'14 OC 26FK; Cmd three coys Wahle's
Force 9.16 with Wintgens'17

No.963 Sgt Geo Chas de Willis TAYLOR BSAP s/o Geo Hutton T of Wallingtn Sy
kia23.10.16 age 30
A197 Cpl Ernest Arthur GREEN lte 1RR & Lennon's Ltd Chemists
23.CAB/44/4 45/9
Hauptmann Max WINTGENS Lt Schutztruppe EA'05 Hptmn 1.10.13 seconded to
Govt GEA in 8.14 OC Bn Ruanda pw 21.5.17
Lt Colpoys H Brodie CLARKE SAMR kia29.10.16
Oberleutnt BAUER Lt Schutztruppe EA 8.9.05 Lt 8FK in 8.14 w29.10.16 OC L Coy
dow26.8.17
24.War Diary Iringa Colm
Lt Col C FREETH RandLI DSO(LG31.5.16)
25.Capt J E E GALBRAITH RF
History KAR pp347,8 PRO CAB/44/4 Parson 45/20 NRP 45/9, Messum Liddle
Collection, Norforce War Diary
26.PRO CAB/44/4, 45/9 Norforce War Diary
Capt Thos MARRIOTT MC(LG2.3.17) 2SAR w Malangali'16 d3.5.20
Dr Heinrich SCHNEE LLD b71 s/o Judge ed Heidelberg, Kiel, Berlin ResLt'94 Rabaul
Neu Pommern Samoa Gov GEA'12 d'47
27.History KAR p349 Northey IWM Norforce War Diary
28.PRO CAB/44/4,45/9; CARBUTT see Ch4 n.10
A3 John T Albert LOCHNER lte 1RR to Political Dept Neu Langenburg MID
LG25.9.17
29.Cmdt Gen 14.1.18 PRO CO/417/640
30.PRO CAB/45/9
31.CAB/45/9 Norforce War Diary
32.Messum Liddle Collection, PRO/CAB/44/7, 45/9, Northey IWM
Lt Gen Sir Jacob Louis Van DEVENTER KCB 17 KBE 19 CMG b77 Col Cmd Fce B
GSWA'14 Sthn Fce 1.15 4Mtd Bde 14.4.15 Maj Gen 2 SA Div 3.16 CinC EAF 29.5.17
d22.8.22
Maj Erick von LANGENN-STEINKELLER Hptmn Schutztruppe EA 27.1.06 OC 5FK
Massoko in 8.14 w Karonga 9.9.14 Maj OC Bn'15 or Lt LANGEN Schutztruppe
17.9.06 13FK Kondoa-Irangi in 8.14
33.Parson PRO CAB/45/20 NRP CAB/45/9
34.PRO CAB/44/7, Parson CAB/45/20 NRP CAB/45/9
BG Hon John Joseph BYRON CMG DSO(LG1.2.17) CO Qnsld Arty '95 Attache
USArmy Philipines'99 ADC to Roberts SA, AAG Arty Aust 01-3 MLC ORC'07 Senator
SA 10-20 CO 5SAI'15 2i/c Dunsterforce Caucasus 12.17 d1935
35.Maj Gen Arthur Regld HOSKINS CMG DSO b1871 ed Westmnstr RMC 2Lt
NStaff'91 Dongola'96 Nile'99 Capt'00 EA'03 LtCol Instr Staff Cllge'09 IG KAR 15.8.13
AA&QMG 8Div 22.9.14 T/Col GSO1 7 Div 12.11.14 BG 8Bde 25.3.15 BGGs VCps
3.10.15 Maj Gen 1EA Div 1.4.16 CinC 20.1-29.5.17 3Ind Div Mespot 18.8.17
46Div'19 rtd23 Prin Philip Stott Cllge Overstone'28 Bonar Law Cllge'29
36.PRO CAB/44/7
37.Norforce War Diary PRO CAB/44/7
Gideon von GRAWERT Hptmn Schutztruppe EA 27.1.06 OC 12FK Mahenge in 8.14
OC Mahenge/Songea 15/16

38.PRO CAB/44/7

Lt Col J Mcl FAIRWEATHER DSO(LG31.10.02) CO Kaffrarian Rif SA War, CO RandLI, CO Ry Bn SWA 24.4.15 CO SAMCC 3.16 kia 18.2.17

39.Lt Col Geo Lewis BAXTER DSO 16 b18.1.83 ed Eton 2Lt QOCH'05 Maj CO 1/1 KAR'17 rtd 1920

40.Capt Wm Jas BAKER ANC SR dow26.3.17

Maj Francis Hallowes ADDISON BSAP Cpl'96 Lt'97 CO 2RNR 10.4.17-25.1.18 Dist Supt Salisby'19

41.Langham NRJ Vol III p256 other accts say it was Latham but Langham must have known.

Capt Fredk Chas BOOTH VC Johannesbruck Songea 12.2.17 LG8.6.17 DCM LG26.5.17 b Uppr Holloway 6.3.90 ed Cheltnhm, 1630 BSAP'12 No.1 Mob Colm 8.14 RNR Sgt 5.16 Lt 3.17 Capt to UK 11.17 Capt 6Mx d Brighton 14.9.60

42.PRO CAB/44/8 Murray CAB/45/49 War Diary 1/1KAR

43.History KAR pp355-8

Oberleutnant Heinrich NAUMANN Lt Schutztruppe EA 17.11.06 Lt 8FK Tabora in 8.14

44.Murray PRO CAB/45/50

45.MAMBO, a Bemba, was awarded a war pension 3.9.17

46.PRO CAB/44/9

47.Harding "Frontier Patrols"

48.PRO CAB/45/9

49.LG3.9.19,22.12.19, 2431 Sgt SAMSONI DCM awarded LS&GCM 14.11.30, Pte MOTO DCM rejoined as 2878

50.Murray PRO CAB/45, Roelke CWGC roll, MMs LG12.3.18

51.Story NRR pp43-4

52.Northey IWM

Lt Col F M FULTON DSO LG31.5.16 MC LG31.5.16 2i/c 5SAI'15

53.History KAR pp387-8

Maj Theodor TAFEL Hptmn Schutztruppe EA 1.10.13 Mit Wahrnehmung der Geschafte Beauftragt in 8.14 10FK w Longido 25.9.14 Cmd Abteilung Tafel 1.17 surr 29.11.17

54.Hauptmann Karl GOERING Oblt Schutztruppe EA 18.8.13 Adjnt to von Lettow in 8.14 OC 4FK Cmd 5 coys'17 w & pw 8.9.18

55.Northey IWM, Stennett 31.12.17 PRO CO/417/611 CAB/45/9 Fair & A Coy had been on famine relief at Mahenge, MG Coy & BSAP LGs jnd 2.2.18 Songea Fce War Diary CAB/45/55

56.PRO CO/417/597,602,603 report 31.3.17

57.PRO CO/417/617-619

58.PRO CO/417/589,603,613 Hobson 'The Feira Affair' NRJ Vol IV p54

59.Northey IWM

60.PRO CAB/45/9 Northey IWM

61.History KAR p405 Col C G DURHAM DSO Spec List, Maj SAEF 13.1.16 CO 1/3KAR

62.Story NRR p46

63.Langham NRJ Vol IV p166 PRO CAB/45/9 No.399 CHIKUSI NRGov Gaz No.229

CHICHASI in LG2.12.19, TEGETE DCM LG11.3.20
64.History KAR p410
65.PRO CAB/45/9
66.Hist KAR p411 n.1 PRO CAB/45/9
67.War Diary 1/4KAR, War Diary Norforce, Hist KAR p411
Lt Col Edwd Brian Barkley HAWKINS DSO 18 OBE 31 ed Winchstr RMC 2Lt
WYks'09 KAR'12 Capt'14 T/Maj'16 CO 1/4KAR T/LtCol 18-19 Consul
SWEthiopia'20-2 Maj'26 L/LtCol CO 1KAR 26-31 OC Depot WYks 35
68.Croad report 24.11.18 PRO CO/417/628
Lt E J LESLIE A240 Pte B/SRC 8.15 Sups Fife 1.6.16 3Sgt 25.3.17 Salisby 2Lt BSAP
15.1.18 Kasama
69.Lt G M SIBBOLD 1799 Tpr BSAP 13 SRC Lt 2/1KAR 1.7.17
70.Alexander NRJ Vol IV p440
A309 WEITZ SRC to BSAP MT
Richd E THORNTON s/o BG Sir Ed AMS svd Norf IY SA, Fmr Kasama Lua Lua
Mbesuma'21 partner with Rumsey d12.34
Frank Edwin RUMSEY DCM b Hants 1880 s/o prop cycle shop, SAC'00 Durban Fire
Bde, ran Launch Trips V Falls Hotel, 3/Sgt BSAP MT. Mbesuma Ranch, Chambeshi
Ranch d27.5.60
71.Croad quoted in Story NRR pp60-2
72.Govt offices said to have been burnt by Sgt Jack Merry, Rd Overseer, in drink;
d50.
Chas SIMPSON Mgr Chambeshi Rubber Factory
Walter SPANGENBERG Lt Schutztruppe 18.9.07 Lt 10FK Dar in 8.14 Olt 10 FK
raided Uganda Ry 6&7.15 OC 10FK twice w OC 6&10FK d18.12.18
Hauptmann Franz KOHL Bavarian Arty Olt Schutztruppe 1.10.13 11FK Kisenji in
8.14 Hptmn OC Abteilg Kohl by 10.17 twice w
73.War Diary 1/4KAR, 'The Last Phase of the East African Campaign : 1914-1918' L
A Russell 1937 published in the Outpost circa 1966.
74.Von Lettow Reminiscences
Unterzahlmeister DOHMEN twice w cdg 10FK at surrender
75.BG Wm Fredk Savery EDWARDS CB(19) CMG(17) DSO(01) KPM(11) FRGS
b27.7.72 s/o Rev ed Christs Hosp 2Lt 3Devon Sierra Leone Frontier Police 99-01
Ashanti'00 SAC'01-6 i/c Kioga Punitive Fce Uganda'07 IG Police & Prisons Ugda'06
BEA & Ugda '08 T/BG IG Line of Communication EAF 1915-2.18
76.War Diary 1/4KAR
77.Die Deutsche Schutztruppe p95 Story NRR p47
78.War Diary 1/4KAR
79.Story NRR p48