



SECOND SUPPLEMENT

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FRIDAY, 13 JULY, 1917.

War Office,
13th July, 1917.

The Colonial Office has forwarded for publication the following Despatch on military operations of the Rhodesian Forces:—

From the High Commissioner for South Africa

To the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

High Commissioner's Office,
Cape Town,

March 10th, 1917.

SIR,—In compliance with your request, I have the honour to furnish the following report on military affairs in Rhodesia and the operations of the Rhodesian Forces from the outbreak of the war to the beginning of 1916. It will be convenient to divide the report into five parts:—

- I.—Operations on the West.
- II.—Operations on the North-Eastern Border.
- III.—The Tanganyika Naval Expedition.
- IV.—The general situation in Rhodesia and the raising of forces for service in other fields than those above mentioned.
- V.—Conclusion.

PART I.—OPERATIONS ON THE WEST.

1. In September, 1914, it was decided, with a view to allaying apprehension among the

native tribes in adjoining British territory, and to safeguarding trade routes on the Zambesi, to occupy Schuckmannsburg, a German post in the eastern extremity of the Caprivi Zipfel. The occupation was effected on September 21st by a detachment of police under Major A. E. Capell, D.S.O. No resistance was offered, and the German Resident and his European Police Subordinate were made prisoners of war. British authority in the Caprivi Strip has since been exercised through a Special Commissioner appointed from the Bechuanaland Protectorate Service, and directly responsible to the High Commissioner.

2. The subsequent activities of the Rhodesian Forces on this side were directed against a possible hostile incursion from German South West Africa. It was thought possible, though not probable, that on the advance of the Union Forces to Windhuk small bands of the enemy forces and of rebels might attempt to retreat northwards. Detachments of Northern Rhodesia Police were accordingly moved from Mongu, Livingstone, and elsewhere to the line of the Zambesi River.

3. On July 8th, 1915, information was received from General Botha's Headquarters at Windhuk that Maritz and others, with animals and provisions, were proceeding along the course of the Okovango River in the direction of the Victoria Falls. A force of 100 British