

South Africa Police, with two Maxim guns, was thereupon dispatched from Southern Rhodesia to reinforce the police posts on the Zambesi, and the whole force was placed under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Stennett, D.S.O., of the Northern Rhodesia Police.

4. In August it was reported that Maritz and his party were detained in Angola, that the country was clear to the west, and that owing to the drying up of the water holes it would be impossible for a force of any strength to move northwards. The police were therefore withdrawn from the line of the Zambesi, and such work as remained to be done was left to the scouts of the Rhodesian Intelligence Department under Major R. Gordon, D.S.O. Beyond the arrest of a German officer in August, and a small party of Regulars in the following month, there is nothing further to record regarding the operations on the west; but I should like to mention the good work performed by the Scouts, whose duties involved considerable responsibility and great personal risks. I would specially mention Major R. Gordon, D.S.O., and Scouts Arnold Weinhold and Benjamin Johnson.

PART II.—OPERATIONS ON THE NORTH-EASTERN BORDER.

1. On the outbreak of war orders were at once issued for the posts of Abercorn and Fife to be strengthened, and for the border of German East Africa to be patrolled. The Officer Commanding Northern Rhodesia Police on the frontier was instructed either to hold the above posts or to retire on Kasama according to his discretion. A mobile column was dispatched from Livingstone to Kasama early in August, 1914, and Lieutenant-Colonel Stennett was placed in command on the border.

2. On September 5th Abercorn was attacked, and the enemy repulsed. As further attacks in greater force were anticipated, the Officer Commanding at Abercorn asked Kasama for reinforcements. Lieutenant-Colonel Stennett at once moved forward with 100 men by forced marches—99 miles in 72 hours—and arrived at Abercorn at 3 a.m. on the morning of September 9th. On this day, at 6 a.m., the enemy commenced to shell Abercorn, and attacked it later in the day, but were repulsed. Next day they retired and encamped on the Lumi River, where they were attacked at dawn on the 11th by a detachment of Northern Rhodesia Police under Lieutenant J. J. McCarthy and driven over the border.

3. Beyond the approach of a few enemy's patrols and the constant cutting of the telegraph lines, nothing of interest occurred during September. By the 26th of that month the forces at Abercorn had been strengthened by the arrival of a Belgian Battalion consisting of 500 native soldiers under European officers, with field and machine guns. Owing to a misunderstanding this battalion was shortly afterwards withdrawn, but it was sent back to Abercorn on January 26th, from which date it continued to co-operate with the British Forces until it was finally withdrawn in October, 1915.

4. As it was uncertain how long the Belgian force would continue to co-operate, arrangements were made to strengthen Lieutenant-Colonel Stennett's command by the dispatch of reinforcements of European Volunteers and Northern Rhodesia Police from Northern

Rhodesia. It was decided that the whole force on the border after the arrival of these reinforcements should be placed under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Hodson, Commandant of the Northern Rhodesia Police, and this Officer left Broken Hill for Abercorn on November 25th.

5. On November 17th German troops, conveyed from Bismarckburg in two steamers, landed at Kituta, fourteen miles west of Abercorn, and, after destroying a small steamer and burning the stores of the African Lakes Corporation, proceeded to Kasakalawe, 28 miles west of Abercorn, where they landed on the 20th and obtained large quantities of telegraph material. On this day they were attacked by a combined force of Northern Rhodesia Police and Belgian troops. Owing to the nature of the country, which was covered with thick bush and long grass, touch was lost between the different parties, and the enemy embarked under cover of the fire of their guns from the steamers.

6. The post at Fife was unsuccessfully attacked on December 6th and again on the night of the 27th, when the enemy were driven off in disorder by a counter-attack and bayonet charge led by Lieutenants A. C. Cussans and R. M. Smith.

7. In December the reinforcements referred to in paragraph 4 were despatched. The column of Northern Rhodesia Police moved from Sakania through Belgian territory to Fort Rosebery, thence to Abercorn, where it arrived on February 3rd. The European Volunteers, Northern Rhodesia Rifles, who were provided with ox-transport, marched from Kashitu and arrived on the border on February 12th; a very fine performance considering the bad state of the roads owing to the heavy rains. In the meanwhile the Belgian Battalion had returned to Abercorn. The arrival of these reinforcements was followed by a renewal of activity on the border.

8. In the course of March, April, May and June, 1915, a number of small engagements took place. In one of these Lieutenant Stannus Irvine, of the Northern Rhodesia Rifles, was mortally wounded while gallantly leading a successful attack on a stockaded position. On another occasion the enemy attacked a patrol of Belgians and Rhodesia police with great determination, but were eventually driven off after an engagement lasting about two hours. Sous-officier Verschueren behaved with great gallantry. He refused to leave the firing line, although twice wounded, and finally he was killed. His body was carried out of action by Senior Serjeant Borazi, of the Belgian Forces, and Serjeant Mwambera, of the Northern Rhodesia Police. Both of these men showed conspicuous bravery, and Serjeant Borazi was wounded.

9. Towards the end of June it was reported that the enemy, who had been reinforced, intended to attack our position at Saisi. The report proved true, and at 6 a.m. on the 28th the post was attacked by some 100 Europeans and 300 Askari with machine guns and about 100 Arabs and Ruga-Ruga. The attack was maintained with considerable determination throughout the day until 3 p.m. On the following morning the enemy appeared again, but retired after a little sniping. Our casualties were one European killed, two natives died of wounds and nine wounded. The enemy's losses were estimated to be fifteen Europeans killed