

## PART V.—CONCLUSION.

1. The defence system of Rhodesia, at the time when war broke out, fell very far short of perfection. The British South Africa Police in Southern Rhodesia and the Northern Rhodesia Native Police, though both fine forces, were no more than sufficient for the preservation of order, even in normal times, in a territory having an area of 450,000 square miles and a population of 1,600,000 natives and barely 30,000 Europeans. The Volunteer and Cadet organisations in the South and the Rifle Associations in the North reflected credit on their respective members, but they did not represent any system of general training or of readiness for emergency such as the geographical situation of the territory or its stage of political development demanded.

2. It was a remarkable achievement in the circumstances for Rhodesia, within nine months of the outbreak of hostilities, to have secured its borders against invasion and, in addition, to have furnished two regiments of European infantry for service in distant fields. Including those who went to England independently to offer their services it may safely be stated that by the middle of 1916 not less than 40 per cent. of the adult male white population were on active service in some part of Africa or Europe.

3. During the period under review a heavy burden of work and responsibility rested upon the Defence Headquarters at Salisbury, and especially upon the Commandant-General, Brigadier-General A. H. M. Edwards, C.B., M.V.O. At a later stage the appointment of General Northey relieved General Edwards of the responsibility for operations on the Northern border, but for the first eighteen months the latter exercised the chief command over the forces in the North as well as over those employed in guarding the Western frontier. The Naval Expedition also was placed under his orders. In addition there was the training, equipment and despatch of reinforcements for the border and of regiments for service elsewhere, the control of enemy subjects and other special internal measures necessitated by the state of war. Concurrently, the usual arrangements for policing the districts had to be maintained. All these duties were

performed by General Edwards with unfailing energy and admirable patience. He has been most ably assisted throughout by Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. Masterman, who, in addition to his duties as Controller of the Defence Force, has acted as Chief Staff Officer to the Commandant-General. Lieutenant Colonel Masterman is a most zealous and hard-working officer, and the value of his services during a period of excessive strain cannot be exaggerated. Major F. R. Burnside, 3rd Hussars, also rendered useful service at Headquarters as Chief Staff Officer before he took command of the First Rhodesia Regiment.

4. The maintenance of good relations between the various authorities concerned has been due to the tact exercised by General Edwards and to the helpfulness and the sound advice of the two administrators, Sir Drummond Chaplin, K.C.M.G., and Mr. L. A. Wallace, C.M.G. The absence of friction must also be attributed in a large measure to the discreet influence and untiring industry of Mr. H. J. Stanley, C.M.G., the Resident Commissioner, who, as the representative in Rhodesia of the Imperial Government, has been the centre of local correspondence and negotiation. Both he and his predecessor, Colonel R. Burns-Begg (whose services in the early stages of the war I desire to record), have had valuable assistance from Mr. C. Douglas Jones, the experienced Secretary to the Resident Commissioner.

5. Lastly, it is my pleasing duty to acknowledge our indebtedness to the administration of the Belgian Congo for their co-operation, not only on the Northern border, but also in the journey of the Naval Expedition to Tanganyika and in the actions fought on the lake. It is true that they were closely concerned in the question of the command of the Lake, and, to a lesser degree, in the defence of the Fife-Abercorn frontier. Their actions, however, were dictated by no motives of self-interest. The co-operation of our gallant Belgian allies was lent, as it was accepted, in a genuine spirit of friendship and *camaraderie*.

I have, etc.,  
BUXTON,  
High Commissioner.

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