

The advance of both the Kilwa and Lindi forces was to be renewed on the 6th, and I now suggested to the Portuguese Commander-in-Chief that he should move his force at Unde eastwards and concentrate near Mocimboa Do Ruvuma, with a supporting force at Chomba, and a strong detachment at Ngomano. To this suggestion Colonel Rosa cordially agreed.

On the 6th the Lindi force under General Cunliffe began its advance, the Nigerian Brigade, No. 4 Column and No. 3 Column forming the right, centre and left respectively. The first resistance was encountered by No. 4 Column on the western edge of the clearing near Mahiwa, which was finally taken by the 5th Light Infantry well supported by artillery fire. The main opposition was, however, encountered by No. 3 Column, which established itself on the enemy's right rear, and was heavily engaged throughout the day, the enemy unsuccessfully counter-attacking O'Grady's flanks and rear. The Nigerian Brigade on the north encountered little opposition, and at 15.30 hours was instructed to send two battalions to reinforce No. 3 Column. These, however, had to move through dense bush and did not reach the main road till dusk, by which time firing had ceased.

Next morning the Nigerian Battalions linked up with No. 3 Column and located a strong enemy rearguard entrenched about one mile to the west.

The bulk of the enemy forces had retired towards Nangoo during the night, across a 20-mile waterless tract of country. I directed General Cunliffe to pursue with a force of at least 2,000 men, and the 3/4th K.A.R. was accordingly transferred temporarily from No. 4 Column to No. 3 Column, which was selected for the task.

Two battalions of the Nigerian Brigade moved forward on the 8th to clear the road for the advance of No. 3 Column. These battalions met with constantly increasing opposition; by 15 hours the 3rd Battalion was heavily engaged, and by 16 hours it became necessary to bring up the 4th Battalion and attack the enemy's right. This had the desired effect, and the enemy withdrew as night fell.

The Cape Corps had been brought up in support of the Nigerian attack, and during the afternoon located an enemy machine gun in action on the flank, which they rushed and captured, killing or taking prisoner the whole gun-crew.

No. 3 Column moved at dawn on the 9th, and during that day and the 10th was constantly opposed by the enemy rearguard, which fell back from position to position in dense bush. Great difficulty was experienced in providing the column with water. The enemy's last serviceable 4.1 inch Königsberg gun was abandoned en route.

Eventually No. 3 Column reached Nangoo at about 10.30 hours on the 11th, to find that the enemy had retired towards Chiwata. Touch was gained with No. 1 Column of the Kilwa force at Ndanda.

General O'Grady continued the pursuit, gradually driving the enemy back on Chiwata, and by 10.30 hours on the 14th the column was overlooking that place from a commanding position on the edge of the Makonde Plateau.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Brigade had been brought up and moved west to Ndanda on the

12th, relieving No. 1 Column of the Kilwa force at that place. From Ndanda the Nigerians moved on Chiwata on the 13th.

27. The Kilwa force had moved simultaneously with the Lindi force, No. 2 Column reaching Tandanaï and No. 1 Column Tchingwea on the 7th. The 17th Infantry formed a detachment to operate against Mnacho.

On the 8th No. 2 Column reached Lukuledi Mission, and No. 1 Column a point on the Lukuledi River a few miles to the east. Both columns were unopposed, and the movement appeared to surprise the enemy, who continued to hold Mnacho. The Mounted Column (10th South African Horse, 25th Cavalry, and King's African Rifles, Mounted Infantry Company), under Colonel Breytenbach, arrived at Lukuledi on the 9th, and was directed on Mwiti. A detachment from the Mounted Column occupied Massassi on the 10th, taking prisoner fifty-seven German whites and 142 askaris. A damaged 4.1 inch naval gun was found in the post.

On the 10th No. 1 Column occupied Ndanga Mission after some opposition, sixty-four German whites and 129 askaris being captured, including sick. The enemy hastily withdrew his detachment from Mnacho, and the 17th Infantry followed southwards towards Ndanda.

28. With the junction of the Kilwa and Lindi forces the campaign in the southern area entered its last phases. Chiwata had been reported as a strong natural position on the edge of the Makonde Plateau, and the camp was known to contain a large hospital and our prisoners of war.

I decided to attack it from the north with the Lindi force and from the west with the bulk of the Kilwa force, while the mounted troops, supported by infantry, operated towards Kitengari against the enemy line of retirement. These movements were initiated at once by Generals Cunliffe and Hannington, and developed during the 13th and 14th, on which days there were continual patrol encounters.

I arrived at Ndanda on the evening of the 14th. No. 1 Column had by then occupied Mwiti after slight resistance, while No. 2 Column was within a mile of Chiwata on the west, with part of the Nigerian Brigade in support. Column 3 had gained the heights to the north-east, as mentioned above.

It became evident early on the 15th that the enemy did not intend to defend Chiwata seriously, but was falling back south-east to Lutshemi. Some opposition was encountered by No. 3 Column on the heights to the east, where the enemy rearguard proved active, but No. 2 Column and the Nigerian Brigade entered Chiwata after only slight opposition, and accepted the surrender of ninety-eight German whites and 425 askaris, including sick: seventy-one European, twenty-eight Indian and twenty-two African prisoners of war were also released. No. 3 Column continued to press forward, and was sharply engaged towards evening with the enemy rearguard.

29. I now directed that No. 1 Column from Mwiti, the Nigerian Brigade from Chiwata, and No. 3 Column from its position on the Plateau should co-operate against Lutshemi, No. 2 Column to form a reserve at Mwiti, while the Mounted Column moved east with the object of cutting communication between