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60452 Secret

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Permanent East Africa
War Diaries

1918

25 Sept

trans. War Diaries of POC in the

Last previous Paper.

period July 1st to July 31st

See 60454

See on 60453

P. R.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

SECRET.

25th September 1917.

Sir,

With reference to my Secret despatch of July 14, 1917 I have the honour to forward herewith for your information a copy of a Résumé of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief's War Diary from 1st to 31st idem.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,



ACTING GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

WALTER HUGH LONG, M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

RESUME OF WAR DIARY

for the period 1st to 31st July 1917

1st July. Hanforce. Enemy camps were located by our aeroplanes near F.7.b., where bombs were dropped, and near Mwindi.

Lindi. Party of 150 rifles, 3 M.G., of 5th I.I. attacked enemy camp Lutende, two miles East of Mkanga, L.16.d. First successful, then surprised and forced to retire. Two P.O.'s wounded and prisoners. Colonel Wilford sent back under flag of truce. 100 other casualties. Enemy known casualties, 4 whites killed.

2nd July. Hanforce. Nothing to report.

Iringa. Column arrived at Ndundwala from Miunga, meeting with slight opposition.

3rd July. Iringa Column. Attack on Kidunda post by 2/4th K.A.R. held up Kiwikiwi River. Casualties in yesterday's fighting 4 killed, 4 wounded, 4 missing. Main force now hold crossings over Londo and Kiwikiwi Rivers. Crossings of Londo secured after good deal of opposition. Casualties, 3 killed, 22 wounded, including 11 porters.

Belgians. 1st detachment Belgian Mpepo Column reached Kisaigo, and 2nd detachment reached Kambacks to-day en route for Iringa.

4th July. Lindi Column. Intelligence patrol ambushed an enemy patrol in the Ruho. One enemy askari killed; own losses nil.

5th July. Hanforce. Enemy patrols active on Mnasi Road.

Iringa Column. Detached force of 17th Infantry attacked enemy's advanced post at Mofu on right bank of Rulpa yesterday morning, rushed, and captured it. Enemy evacuated position on left bank of Kiwikiwi River.

In action of 2nd., enemy held strong entrenched positions on left bank of Londo River. Our advance guard demonstrated on front, guns shelled position, whilst a force crossed river upstream

up-stream to attack enemy's right flank. Attack developed at 16.30 hours and turned enemy out of position. Enemy retired across Kiwikiwi and our troops pursued. We now hold both crossings over Londo and Kiwikiwi and are reconnoitering Ruipa for a suitable position to bridge.

6th July. Norforce. Our column in P.F.A. yesterday was one day's march from Mwambe.

Lindi Column. One of our patrols attacked an enemy patrol of 3 G.W. and 70 blacks. We killed one black and captured two rifles.

Kilwa Area. The enemy attacked one of our convoys returning from Mhasi, 7 miles from Mgerigeri, wounding one officer and 2 askaris, and killing one n.c.o.

7th July. Hanforce. Our column advancing on the 6th encountered opposition South of Ukuli on Mhindi Road, and drove enemy from prepared position two miles South of Ukuli.

Another column reached junction of Lunyu-Mayongo and Ukuli-Kikulo roads without opposition.

Iringa Column. Covering party of 2/4th K.A.R. crossed the Ruipa River near its junction with Kiwikiwi River.

Norforce. Ssongea Column drove small enemy party towards junction of Likuyu-Mahenge and Likuyu-Liwale roads and occupied this road junction.

Naumann Operations. Belgians with Drought's Scouts and Mwanza district police attacked main enemy force at Ikoma Boma. Result not known, but casualties severe on both sides.

8th July. Iringa Column. We now hold both banks of the Ruipa River.

Norforce. Enemy evacuated Mburukasese yesterday, retiring North. We are pursuing with flying column.

9th July. Hanforce. Enemy had one and possibly two guns in action on 6th. The action took place in very dense bush and long grass. We picked up 18 German askaris killed.

Norforce. The enemy under threat of investment retired on night 6th/7th from Mburukasese along Mahenge Road before we could get astride latter.

10th July. Norforce. Patrol encounters near Pangrassi.

In fighting Mburukasese on 6th and 7th we captured 2 German whites, 5 askaris, considerable material including 10,000 S.A.A., maxim tripod and spare parts, signalling equipment. Our casualties one officer and 2 askaris killed, 15 askaris wounded. On 8th instant we attacked enemy astride Mburukasese-Mahenge road at Mgemge Hill and forced them to retire towards Mahenge.

Our column in P.E.A. encountered enemy patrol, which escaped but abandoned all baggage, maps, and documents.

Lindi Column. Enemy gun shelled Mingoyo ineffectively yesterday.

11th July. Hanforce. Headquarters established at Kiwatama from 14 hours on 11th.

Kihambawe Column. We attacked enemy post at Mswega. Enemy escaped leaving behind all his provisions.

Iringa Column. On 10th instant, 2/4th K.A.R. drove enemy from his forward positions at Kifoku. We occupied Mofu morning of 11th.

Norforce. In P.E.A. our column opposed on 5th instant by strong enemy detachment 11 miles from Mwembe. We drove enemy back. Our casualties one officer and 3 askaris wounded. Enemy's known casualties at least four killed or wounded.

We occupied Mwembe and Likopolwe on 6th instant, and the enemy retired 30 miles N.E.

12th July. Iringa Column. We advanced a short distance up the Litete road and met some opposition. Country is dense elephant grass. Our losses one officer and one sepoy killed.

Norforce. East of Lupembe at Tanganiyaka we captured five carriers, 15 bushels of rice. Aeroplanes bombed and a line of...

5th July. Hanforce. Our patrols in contact with enemy on South bank of Mavudji river and 1 1/2 miles to North of Mtshakama.

Kibambawe Column. Patrol encounter near Maawega yesterday. Enemy fled. We captured one askari and wounded another.

Iringa Column. Enemy evacuated Kifoku and we are now occupying his main positions on Ruipa River.

Norforce. Patrol encounter near Pangrassi. Our casualties nil; one German officer and one askari killed, one askari captured, one severely wounded.

Enemy still holding Luguruka on 11th instant.

6th July. Hanforce. Vigorous patrolling towards Mtshakama position.

Iringa Column. Enemy still occupy Kadunda position.

Norforce. We are patrolling actively towards Liwale and Tunduru.

In P.E.A. the Germans attacked Montepwest on 10th instant, with one platoon. They were repulsed, leaving one European and two askaris killed, also rifles, equipment, and ammunition.

7th July. Hanforce. Our troops in contact with enemy in vicinity of Mtandawala and Mtshakama.

Iringa Column. Enemy evacuated Kadundas, which we occupy. Ruipa River now clear of the enemy.

8th July. Hanforce. Enemy driven from ridge West of Rungo River; patrols in touch with enemy towards Mtshakama.

Kibambawe Column. We ambushed enemy party of 50 men 15 miles North of Madaba. We wounded four askaris, captured one askari and two rifles. Our casualties nil.

Norforce. On 13th., Sangea Column engaged enemy (one company, 2 maxims) 6 miles North of Luguruka. Additional enemy casualties on 10th instant, one white and 12 askaris killed and buried.

17th July. Hanforce. Advance continues towards Narungombe, slight opposition. Country is thick bush, steep and rugged hills.

18th July. Norforce. Enemy reported in strength at Narungombe.

Norforce. On 14th main body Songea Column was five miles South of Maji Mahaja. Enemy force reported still Liwuku.

19th July. Hanforce. Our three columns converge on enemy position at Naringombe.

Lindi. Patrol encounter South-West of Upper Schaedel Farm.

20th July. Hanforce. Action at Narungombe continued with great violence on 19th until 19 hours. We occupied enemy's entire position. Our casualties very heavy and enemy seriously handled and forced to retire.

Kibambawe Column. We drove in an enemy outpost at Nangiga on 15th.

Norforce. Enemy vacated Refu on 17th instant on approach of our Impembe Column. Songea Column engaged enemy rearguard at Maji Mahaja on 18th.

Lindi Column. A patrol drove off enemy picquet and burnt food store at Tandamuti.

21st July. Hanforce. Action at Narungombe on 19th. Eleven companies opposed us. We attacked frontally and endeavoured envelop both flanks. Enemy made persistent counter-attacks and disclosed two mountain guns. In one place enemy started bush fires and charged among them. Enemy abandoned whole position and water. Casualties both sides very heavy.

Norforce. Enemy retired from Maji Mahaja.

Patrol from Songea towards Tunduru engaged enemy patrol (two whites and 20 askaris) on 17th instant at Mtungwe village, capturing all white personal kit.

22nd July. Hanforce. Evidence shows German casualties on 19th were heavy. We picked up 9 G.W. and 27 G.B. dead. 1/3rd K.A.R. captured one machine gun complete.

Norforce. On night 20th/21st enemy retired hurriedly towards Liwuku.

- 23rd July. Kibambawe Column. Patrol activity on the Kitopā and Itete roads.
- 24th July. Lindi Column. Enemy gun shelled Mingoyo, killing two porters and wounding two.
- 25th July. Hanforce. Patrolling active.
Norforce. Enemy have retired to right bank of Mahudje River, destroying all canoes.
- 26th July. Lindi Column. Our patrols bombed and drove back three enemy picquets in direction Mahombika.
- 27th July. Kibambawe Column. Enemy prepared clever ambush astride dry river bed; after two hours' fighting enemy retired.
- 28th July. Norforce. Our Songea Column on 27th drove in enemy picquet two miles South of Ntuliraa Gee, K.2.b., killing three enemy askaris and capturing two. One enemy white and seven askaris escaped unwounded.
Lindi Column. 3/4th K.A.R. patrol attacked enemy post near Rondo on night of 26th/27th, capturing one white, killing three askaris, and wounding one.
- 29th July. Iringa Column. Patrol encounters on way to Kiganga and Nmawallo River.
- 30th July. Hanforce. Our troops occupied Mssindje this afternoon. Patrolling active towards Mihambia.
Iringa Column. On 29th we engaged enemy at Njarabunga position, which he evacuated after dark.
Norforce. On 27th Songea Column attacked enemy position at Ntulinas and occupied it after sharp fight. Enemy retired towards Mponda. Our casualties seven killed, 14 wounded; enemy's unknown but believed to be heavy.
- 31st July. Hanforce. Patrols active.