

and speedy initiative, to the troops for their relentless persistence in advancing under the varied arduous conditions which they met; in the Northern Frontier District, in heat and dust, and long periods on only a gallon of water per man; in the Abyssinian hills in wet and cold, and undertaking operations calling for the highest degree of physical fitness and resistance to fatigue. Although food was always plentiful the staple "Bully Beef" was seldom replaced by fresh meat, and most of the white personnel had no bread for the whole period of two months. Owing to the speed of the advance and the distances covered, it was impossible to maintain a regular service of mails, a matter of considerable concern to many of the men. All these discomforts were met by both white and native troops with the imperturbable cheerfulness which has long been the characteristic of the British soldier.

137. Our total casualties during the period 11th February to 5th April were:—

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| Killed | ... | ... | ... | 135 |
| Wounded | ... | ... | ... | 310 |
| Prisoners | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Missing | ... | ... | ... | 52 |
| | | | | <hr/> 501 <hr/> |

It might appear from this figure that there was in fact very little serious fighting. This is by no means the case. Nearly always when our troops met the enemy they were heavily fired on, and the number of automatics and heavy machine-guns captured testified to the fire power the enemy could develop. I attribute the reasons for the low number of casualties firstly to the superior mobility of our forces which enabled them quickly to find the "soft spot," secondly to the cover provided by the bush, and thirdly to lack of marksmanship of the Italian Colonial Infantryman who when pressed was inclined to shoot high.

138. I wish to express my grateful thanks to Vice-Admiral R. Leatham, C.B., R.N., Commander-in-Chief East Indies, and all ranks and ratings concerned, for the invaluable help rendered by the Royal Navy throughout the operations, commencing with the efficient support given by "Force T" in the bombardment of the coast before the capture of Chisimaio, and later during the forcing of the Giuba. The successive opening of the ports of Chisimaio, Merca, Mogadiscio and Berbera enabled my operations to proceed without a pause. In every case facilities for unloading were poor or non-existent, but the difficulties were surmounted with the efficiency and drive we have come to expect from our sister service.

139. I cannot speak too highly of the part played by the Air Forces in this campaign. The Air Officer Commanding remained with me throughout the operation, thus facilitating the requests for immediate air assistance. From the commencement of the campaign our Air Forces, under Air Commodore W. Sowrey, D.F.C., A.F.C., ably assisted by Brigadier H. Daniel, M.C., A.F.C., S.A.A.F., established complete air superiority, with the result that the advance of the troops was little interfered with by enemy air activity, and after the crossing of the Giuba we moved wholly by day. Bombing and "ground strafing" by the enemy was sporadic and normally ineffective. During the later stages of the campaign a support

group consisting of bombers, fighters, and A.C. machines was formed, and its Air Force Commander with his own communications advanced with the Commander of the leading troops. The value of this arrangement from the army point of view cannot be overstressed. Air support for the forward troops of the nature called for by the situation, was "on tap," and engendered the greatest confidence amongst both commanders and men.

140. To the pilots of the S.A.A.F. fighters, who destroyed such a number of enemy machines on the ground, and to the S.A.A.F. bombers which created such havoc amongst the retreating enemy, must be ascribed their great share of the credit for the successes gained. The invaluable work of the S.A.A.F. Army Co-operation Squadrons was carried out with daring and efficiency. Without the continuous employment of the Communication Flight, R.A.F., control of the operations spread over such a large area of country would have been impossible. I would like to mention the ground staff which, in spite of lack of spares and facilities generally, by dint of unceasing toil kept the maximum number of machines in the air.

The number of enemy aircraft destroyed during the period was 57 against our own losses of 8.

141. Here I must express my great appreciation of the assistance given so freely in every way possible to the Army by His Excellency the Governor of Kenya, Their Excellencies the Governors of Tanganyika, Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia and Uganda through the East African Governors' Conference, the Government of Southern Rhodesia, and various civil authorities and institutions. All requests that I have had to make from time to time met with immediate response.

142. It is not too much to say that the willing co-operation given to the Army at all times by the Kenya and Uganda Railways and Harbours Administration played a large part in furthering the operations. In particular, their invaluable assistance in the construction and repair of large quantities of military material of various types must be mentioned. To Brigadier General the Hon. Sir Godfrey Rhodes, C.B.E., D.S.O., and the officers and employees of the Administration the Army owes its gratitude.

In addition to this practical help the Kenya and Uganda Railways and Harbours has as part of the common war effort assisted His Majesty's Government by large remissions of financial charges that would normally be due to them for military traffic.

143. A great deal of voluntary work for the benefit of the Army has been undertaken. Subscriptions have been made towards the welfare of, and gifts for, the troops. Ambulances and mobile canteens have been presented, and my Welfare Officers have been greatly assisted by provision of accommodation for officers and other ranks for periods of leave.

144. The Force owes a great debt to Lady Moore who, in addition to many other activities, organised and managed the voluntary Kenya Women's Emergency Organisation which ran the badly-needed canteens in Nairobi, and provided vegetables and other comforts for the forward troops when possible.