

engaged quite heavily.

One thing about our Commandos was that as soon as we had off saddled for a break at midday a few of the chaps would scout around searching for something for the pot, may be a buck or even some game bird. On one occasion we were after some guinea fowl we had spotted when the enemy suddenly opened fire on us and, in two twos, our chaps were down and firing in the direction from which the firing had come. Immediately the firing ceased a few of us lead by our C.O. Gerber and two other officers were off in hot pursuit. As it was hard work pushing through the bush we ran along the bed of a small river but saw nothing of the enemy. On the way back we found one of the officers, Bester, hiding behind a rock and when Gerber asked this 6' 6" officer why he had not followed us his excuse was that we moved too fast for him. Gerber who was only 5' 6" tall told him straight out that he was a bally coward. Of this good parade ground officer we saw no more as he was sent back out of the line.

On another occasion when held up and could not get the enemy to budge Gerber said "Come on chaps fix bayonets and lets have a go and show the enemy a bit of cold steel". We had not moved many yards before they beat a hasty retreat. Who could blame them for cold steel is a terrible thing to face. No I certainly am not a lover of steel on the end of a rifle. Apart from salt and sugar another item we were very short of was matches . Cigarettes were of course out of the question but we were able to buy, from the natives, some of their very strong home cured tobacco in cakes which looked like ox blobs. We tried all sorts of substitutes for salt even wood ash but of no use and one does require salt. Even the animals hunt around for salt licks. Tanganyika, originally German East is I am sure the finest territory in Africa. Very fertile. You should see their mealies and kaffir corn, wonderful crops. Monkey nuts, mangoes, and bananas and other fruit is plentiful. They even had at one time rubber plantations but these have all disappeared. Then there is sisal which we hated for you could not, on account of the spike, go through a field but had to go round. Then there was the little bean that grew on a runner in the bush and in the long grass and reeds. One had only to touch one of these tiny hairy beans and in no time you were itching all over. At the first opportunity you would see chaps stripped and rolling in any handy mud to rid themselves of the sting. The itchy bean.

We were again held up by a small force at Korogwe where they were holding a position in some small hills or kopjes. As after firing at them for some time and there was no move Col. Kuhn instructed Gerber to take his troop on a left hook in order to threaten their retreat. It took us some little while through the thick bush to get round to the back of the hill and took up a position on the road. We then settled down and opened fire on a number of the enemy who were lying on the lower slopes where they thought they were safe. In no time we had accounted for a few and then, realizing that their retreat line had been blocked, and not being able to make use of the road they soon disappeared into the thick bush. It was decided to stop here for the night, we cut grass from the river bank, where it was not burnt, for the horses.

We were, at this time not losing so many horses though I was now riding my seventh. Chaps were still going down with fever and many through sheer exhaustion owing to the lack of good food.

General Britz's Second Brigade Mounted had now arrived in the country and with four infantry regiments had occupied the town of Morogora on the Dar-es-Salam - Tabora line. Morogora is situated at the foot of the Ulugura Mountains on the other side of which von Lettowe had retired to take a position at Kasaki. Now with Britz's strong force it was hoped to intercept the Germans at Kasaki where their main force was. Britz, with his fresh horses was to take the longer route round the

Mountains/