

nized by both Briton and Boer as the ablest statesman in the commonwealth, and is one of the greatest generals of African warfare.

While General Smuts was getting to his new sphere of action an event of great interest and equally great importance was taking place on Lake Tanganyika. Until the close of 1915 this lake had been dominated by two German gunboats and this continued until December of that year, when on Christmas day two armoured motor boats were launched and ran their trial trips. These boats had been built in Britain, had been shipped to Cape Town and from there transported by rail to within 166 miles of the lake where began a long trek through the wilds of Northern Rhodesia. Roads had to be cut through the jungle and the motor boats dragged by traction wagons through the forests to the Lualaba River, the upper waters of the Congo, whence they reached the lake. Officers and men for this distant adventure were provided by the Admiralty. The day following their trial, December 26th, 1915, they surprised one of the German gunboats and sank her, and early in February the other enemy boat met a similar fate. This ended the enemy's power on the border waters of the colony.

Thus the way was prepared for an advance of the Belgians from the Belgian Congo and of the British from Northern Rhodesia. The former under General Tombeur entered the colony at the northwest in two columns from either end of Lake Kivu, and, supported by their gunboats they forced the enemy to retreat in the direction of Lake Victoria Nyanza before the converging columns. Kigali, the principal town in the province of Ruanda, was occupied by the Belgian forces in April, 1916. Biramulo east of Usumbura was taken by the Belgians on July 3rd and Ujiji was occupied just a month later. Meanwhile a force of Rhodesians and Transvaalers under Brigadier-General Northey had entered the colony between Lake Tanganyika and Lake Nyasa and in May captured Neu Langenberg with large quantities of ammunition and stores and afterwards proceeded north-westward and occupied the important town of Bismarcksburg at the foot of Lake Tanganyika. On July 2nd another British force occupied Bukoba on the west of Victoria Nyanza and on the 14th captured Muanza on the south of this lake and drove the enemy from that quarter towards Tabora on the Central Railway. The lake regions were now free from the enemy, and meanwhile General Smuts was driving him from his stronghold around Kilimanjaro.

The strength of the British in East Africa was largely increased early in 1916 by the arrival of an expeditionary force from South Africa and when General Smuts took over the command of the British forces on February 23rd, 1916, he recognized the excellent preparatory work of General Tighe and set out with that General to learn the situation. He found the enemy strongly fortified to the southeast of Mt. Kilimanjaro,