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EAST AFRICAN STANDARD, Nairobi, Wednesday,
Jan. 19, 1955.

11 SURRENDER DURING PAST 24 HOURS.

Last night's official communique (18th January) revealed that nine terrorists had been killed during the preceding 24 hours. Three of them, members of a gang of four, were killed by Embu Guards in the Kiine Location. The patrol captured a home-made gun and one round of ammunition.

Eleven more surrenders to security forces were reported, eight of them in the Meru District.

Two terrorists were killed when No. 9 General Service Unit made contact with a gang of four in the Nanyuki District. Another was wounded, but escaped. Three more terrorists were killed north-west of Nanyuki.

On the forest edge, in Muthami Location, one terrorist was killed by a combined patrol of tribal police and Kikuyu Guards, and a second gangster was captured. The patrol seized three home-made guns and a few rounds of ammunition.

Very full reports will be found in THE TIMES, DAILY TELEGRAPH, etc. of the 19th January, 1955, and onwards.

COPY OF PRESS CUTTING.

"STANDARD" ^{Kenya} Staff Reported, Nyeri.Release ^{P-125001} Tuesday
31/1/54OPERATION HAMMER BEGINS.Africans Cheer News of Sweep.

Africans elapped and cheered when they heard the news that nine battalions of troops had emerged from positions on the Aberdares to launch Operation Hammer, the first large-scale offensive against terrorists in the forests.

At barazas, in the neat, fortified villages, the Africans had been told by their chiefs and headmen that a new stage in the Emergency had been reached and that the utmost vigilance would be needed during the next few weeks to see that the terrorists did not escape through the net.

A young Administrative Officer said 'The Africans are in good heart, despite all the troubles of the past. We all know about this new operation, and morale is high. We feel that a significant stage has been reached.'

Stretched in a long line across the width of the forest range, approximately 30 miles from the edge bounding on the Nyeri district, the troops began the slow and patient task of beating through some of the most difficult terrain in Kenya.

A military spokesman said that reports received at the tactical headquarters set up at Nyeri by Maj.-Gen. W.R.N. Hinde, were considered to be completely satisfactory.

The spokesman added: 'It must be emphasized that spectacular results cannot necessarily be expected at this early stage. We are driving through extremely dense forest at altitudes of from 8,000 to 10,000 feet. The Army is not out to present impressive figures of the rate of forward progress. The aim is to do the job thoroughly and well.'

The first few hours produced no reports of success. One terrorist was killed in the early morning before the start of the operation when he attempted to flee after he had stumbled on one of the prepared positions. Another terrorist in similar circumstances a few miles away put up his hands and surrendered.

News that the operation had started, after a week of rumour and conjecture, was greeted with satisfaction by settlers in the Nyeri area. One settler said: 'This is the sort of thing we have been waiting for. We can really feel certain that the Government is getting down to the job of cleaning up the forest. It is a tremendous task and we realise that the military must be having a gruelling time.'

Throughout the morning little knots of settlers gathered in the streets of Nyeri. More than a dozen farmers in the Mweiga area made special journeys to get the news at first hand.

I visited the scene of operations in the forest so that I could see the nature of the terrain through which the troops were moving. The approach was from Nyeri, past Ihururu, and through Nioguniu, and so to the forest edge. We were within a few miles of Kabage but turning away in a southerly direction. The track had disappeared. The truck lurched and jumped crazily as we drove into the silent forest - so difficult was the ground that we never got out of first gear. Three times we crashed over small trees which had fallen across our path. The nightmare ride was kept up for five miles before we found a tiny clearing in which it was possible to reverse. On both sides was thick and impenetrable undergrowth. A man could have stood less than a yard away without fear of detection. Fifteen miles ahead, a line of troops was advancing against the terrorists. The silence was uncanny and there was an overpowering sense of solitude.

The communique issued from G.H.Q., East Africa, stated: Three more terrorists have been killed during 'Operation Hammer' in the Aberdare Forest area. Two terrorists were killed in the Eastern Aberdares and one was killed by Kikuyu Guard manning a stop position on the eastern edge of the forest.

Farmer fired at as he chased terrorists.

Kenya Regiment patrols in the Kiambu area killed a terrorist and found the body of another gangster who had died of wounds, it was officially reported. In the Nyeri and Fort Hall districts four more terrorists were killed by police and African loyalists.

A farmer was fired at but not hit, when he chased three terrorists who attempted to steal cattle from Griffin's farm at Gilgil.

More than 50 rounds of ammunition, in a rusty state, were found in a shed at the back of a house in Eastchurch Road, Nairobi.

Commencement of "OPERATION HAMMER". Attack on Aberdare Forest, notorious haunt of Kikuyu Mau Mau Terrorists.

Roll No. 1.

Patrol of K.A.R. Defence Platoon H.Q. 70 (EA) Brigade.
 Captain H.G. Furguson, Royal Northumberland Fus: from Middlesborough.
 C.S.M. J. Moran of Selford and W/O J. Jessop, of Colchester, Kent.

1. Pan R. to L. jungle onto road - jeep and heavy lorry approach and turn off road.
2. Exist Officers.
3. Exit troops pan R. to L. run into bush.
4. Run towards camera then fall on stomachs.
5. C.S. African Askari - firing rifle - pan up onto Officers' party.
6. M.S. derelict hut through bushes.
7. Bullets striking well.

Roll No. 2.

1. M.S. sections move up to suspected derelict hut. 3 ft. firing.
2. M.S. Askari moves into hut.
3. Major Gen. Hinde, Officer i/c of the operation, arrives at office.
4. M.S. group - Major Westerman P/R. S/L Proctor (Air Liaison). Major Mase. Major Gen. Hinde.
5. C.U. Major Gen. Hinde.
6. C.U. group salute.
7. S/L Proctor and Major Mase discuss.
8. C.U. S/L Proctor and Major Mase.

Roll No. 3.

Emergency Committee at Admin. H.Q., Nyeri.

1. L.S. group L. to R. Col. Chaplin (Executive Officer), Major Gen. Hinde; Asst. Comm. K.P. Haddington (i/c Police); Brig. Lord Thurlow; Brig. John Orr (70 Brigade); Provincial Commissioner C.M. Johnson (Chairman).
2. P.S. Johnson joins group.
3. C.S. Pan L. to R. group discuss.
- 4, 5 and 6. C.S.
7. Group moves off.
8. L.S. Mweiga air strip. Leading A/C of K.P.R. air wing with food and supplies for troops in the forest. Land rover arrives with supplies. Lt. Bridgestock directs driver to stop.
9. C.U. man exit land rover.

Roll No. 4.

Unloading of supplies of food from land rover by A/C. Lt. Bridgestock supervising. Pilot A.D.C. Pakenham-Walsh loads aircraft. Bridgestock enters aircraft. Engine starts. Aircraft taxis out. Aircraft takes off.

DOPE SHEET

"OPERATION HAMMER"

Total footage 500 feet

Stock - Plus X

Shot by - Mr. Eric White, Kenya.

This material was shot at Nyeri

ROLL NUMBER 1

A short sequence on the packing of the food and equipment which is dropped to the troops in the forest. This material connects up with the previous material sent to you of the loading of bundles into a small aircraft of the Kenya Police Reserve, Air Wing.

The shots are in sequence.

The first 30 feet of roll number 2 are of the Land Rover carrying the bundles, departing from the R.A.S.C. Depot for the air field.

ROLL NUMBER 2 and ROLLS NUMBER 3, 4 & 5 are of the Governor's Baraza held at Nyeri on January 18th. All this material is shot in sequence.

NOTES:

Roll number 2 includes close-up of ex-Senior Chief of Wambugu of Nyeri arriving.

Roll number 3 includes close-up of Chief Charles Munene of Embu, who was presented with the B.E.M. This close-up is to cut into the Governor's presentation.

End of roll number 4 and roll number 5 includes close-up of Chief Wambugu and ex-Senior Chief Njiri meeting Governor Baring.

Chief Njiri is the only surviving Chief of the three originals at the beginning of the Emergency.

TERRORIST CASUALTIES MOUNT IN FOREST DRIVE

(East African Standard, 19th January, 1955.)

11 Surrender to Security Forces

Continuing their sweep through the Aberdare range, troops engaged in "Operation Hammer" - the drive against terrorists in the forests - killed eight gangsters during the weekend. Two more gangsters surrendered - one to the advancing troops, and one to Kikuyu Guard on the fringe of the forest above Fort Hall. This brings the total to 45 killed and six captured. Eleven have surrendered.

Units of the 5th K.A.R. were responsible for four of the kills - including two terrorists who were members of a gang of ten. Two home-made guns and a quantity of ammunition were captured.

Dog Food dropped

Three terrorists were killed by the 26th K.A.R., and another was killed by the 49th Brigade Combat Tracker Group.

Police fired on a gang seen attempting to leave the forest on the edge of the Fort Hall Reserve. The gang returned to the forest.

Dog food was among supplies dropped by R.A.F. aircraft to the troops. This was for tracker dogs which are being used in the drive.