RWANDA MILITARY LOCATION/MOVEMENTS APRIL-JULY 1994

© Prof. Peter Erlinder

APRIL - JULY 1994

- Sept. 1993 Reconn Report by Dallaire indicates 2-3/1 combat capability advantage for RPF, which had been confirmed by near success of assault of Feb 1993, stopped only with French assistance. [See also USG assessment Map I A and II A]
- March 28, 1994 US cable states that all parties agree that CDR should be admitted to Arusha Process and RPF is blocking final settlement. RPF in minority position if political settlement is instituted.
- March 30 Dallaire Code Cable reports that Gendarmes are so debilitated by war that they are incapable of maintaining regular law and order and must be complete rebuilt by UNAMIR.
- April 1 -- Kagame gives order to site the missiles to assassinate Habyarimana [Ruzibiza]
- APRIL 6 [See Maps 1 and USG Map 1A with locations-strength of FAR/Gendarme]. Note comparisons with Ruzibiza map re: RPF locations in occupied area and FAR units

Movements:

- April 6 assault from occupied zone begins 30 min. after assassination of Habyarimana [See Maps II and USG Map IIA with directions/dates of RPF assaults]. Note comparisons with Ruzibiza Map re: RPF units and directions of advance.
 - -- RPF western assault on Ruhengeri through DMZ [main FAR combat force tied down, but blocking RPF advance 4/6-7/15/but reinforcement of other areas not possible].
 - -- RPF southeastern assault toward Kigali/reaches CND 4/8
 - -- RPF surrounds/isolates Byumba/FAR withdraws 4/20
 - -- RPF eastern main assault/Gabiro falls almost immediately
- April 7 RPF battalion [substantially reinforced] comes out of CND and assaults FAR in central Kigali and advance on Kanombe Airport to the east.[see Maps III and IV] [main FAR combat force tied down in Kigali/but reinforcement of other areas not possible].

- -- RPF occupies Remera [Kigali-ville] and Remera Gendarme Post near UNAMIR HQ.
- April 8 RPF battalion from Mulindi enters Kigali from the north along a broad front to reinforce CND battalion.
 - -- FAR forces tied down in Kanombe/Central Kigali south and west of CND
 - -- FAR continue to hold central Kigali from 4/7 to 7/4 from Kimihurura on east to near Mt. Kigali on west and south of Mt. Jari on north.
 - -- Gabiro [northeastern Rwanda] falls to the RPF
- April 10 RPF occupies Rutongo/Gasyata/Gisozi/Gikomero [Kigali-ville]
- April 11/12 RPF infiltrates Mt. Rebero [Kigali] high ground and seizes Nyanza permitting shelling of Kigali from high ground to the south
- April 14 FAR Muvumba battalion attempt to displace RPF from Mt. Rebero unsuccessfully
- April 15 RPF seizes Kayonza crossroad at Rwamagana [eastern Rwanda], cutting off land route to TZ./RPF splits into western assault on Kigali and continuation of southeastern to Kibungo/Rusumo
- April 16 FAR Muvumba battalion moves east toward Kicukiru and north toward Nyamirambo in Kigali/FAR forces tied down in Kanombe/Central Kigali south and west of CND
- April 19 RPF occupies Gikoro [Kigali-ville]
- April 20 RPF seizes Kibungo [southeastern Rwanda]/splits -western assault toward Bugesera southeastern assault on Rusomo
 - -- Byumba falls
 - -- Mt. Jari north of main Kigali/Gitarama rd. occupied by RPF permitting shelling of road/Kigali from the north.
- April 21 RPF seizes Rusomo.
- April 23 RPF seizes Kicukiro [Kigali-ville] including ETO
- Inote: by this time the RPF has military control over the eastern 1/3 of Rwanda
- April 25 eastern Kigali-rural [Kabuga] assaulted by RPF units from Kibungo

- -- FAR continue to hold central Kigali from 4/7 to 7/4 from Kimihurura on east to near Mt. Kigali on west and south of Mt. Jari on north.
- April 25-30 -- RPF occupies Camp Kami/Ndera/Masaka/ Kabuga/Kimornko [Kigali-ville]
- May 1 RPF in southern Kigali [Rebero] assaults Kanombe from the south possibly reinforced by units from Bugesera
 - -- See May UNAMIR Map [V.A] showing UN locations only in Kigali and Uganda border, thus lacking any ability to observe rest of country.
- May 5 RPF reaches Bugesera [FAR camp taken].
- May 11 note: RPF controls eastern ½ of Rwanda [See USG Map V]
- May 17 first recorded UNHCR Report of massive RPF killings in Kibungo/Rusomo
- May 22 Kanombe Airport seized by RPF/fighting continues in central Kigali [See Kigali sketches III and IV] FAR paracommandos withdraw toward Gitrama.
 - -- FAR continue to hold central Kigali from 4/7 to 7/4 from Kimihurura on east to near Mt. Kigali on west and south of Mt. Jari on north.
- Note: RPF controls most of Kigali-ville and all of surrounding area to north, east and south.
- May 25 RPF crosses Akaryaru bridge over Nyabarongo River into Butare Pref./splits in 3 columns: north to Gitarama-ville/west toward Nyabisindu/south toward Butare-ville
- May 29 Western column seizes Nyabisindu/Nyanza and splits north/south toward Gitarama-ville and south to Butare-ville
- June 2 -- Kabgayi in Gitarama seized by RPF
- June 12 Gitarama-ville seized by RPF.
- <u>June 24 Operation Turquoise/note: French forces occupy Kibuye/ Gikongoro/</u>
 <u>Cyangugu/and small part of Butare Prefectures</u>. [See USG Map VI].
- July 4 Mt. Kigali seized by RPF
 - Butare-ville seized by RPF

- -- Kigali-villeseized by RPF/ remaining FAR troops in Kigali withdraw toward Ruhengeri
- July 15 FAR troops withdraw from Ruhengeri/NW Rwanda and remaining FAR troops withdraw into the Congo.
 - -- RPF seizes Mukamira Camp
- July 16 RPF seizes Bigogwe Camp
- July 17 RPF seizes Gisenyi-ville.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF IMPORTANT EVENTS (APRIL 94/JULY 94)¹

Operational Sector KIGALI TOWN² 1.

EVENT	DATE
Assassination of President HABYARIMANA	06/04 94
Assassination of PM Agathe UWILINGIYIMANA	07/04/94
Assassination of Belgian soldiers (UNAMIR	07/04/94
Resumption of hostilities by RPF troops based in CND Kigali	07/04/94
Capture of Remera by the RPF	07/04/94
Beginning of the evacuation of foreigners	08/04/94
Installation of the interim Government	09/04/94
Capture de RUTONGO (Parish) ³	09/04/94
Attack of internally displaced camp of NYACYONGA	09/04/94
Capture of RUTONGO (communal office)	10/04/94
Capture of GASYATA (fuel depot)	10/04/94
Capture of GISOZI	10/04/94
Capture of GIKOMERO hills	10/04/94
Capture by par successive waves of Mount REBERO in Kigali	11/04/94
Capture of mount NYANZA	12/04/94
Evacuation of the Interim Government at GITARAMA	12/04/94
Capture of the APAPER church in REMERA near Sonatube	13/04/94
End of the evacuation of Belgian soldiers of UNAMIR	15/04/94
Capture of the roundabout of Kicukiro (SONATUBE)	16/04/94
End of the evacuation of foreigners	19/04/94
Capture of GIKORO	19/04/94
Capture of BICUMBI	20/04/94
Capture of Mount JARI	20/04/94
Reduction of the UNAMIR to 270 toops	21/04/94
Capture of KICUKIRO (ETO)	23/04/94
Capture of camp KAMI	25/04/94
Capture of NDERA	25/04/94
Capture of MASAKA	28/04/94
Capture of KABUGA	28/04/94
Capture of KIMIRONKO	30/04/94
Capture of KICUKIRO (OVIBAR)	05/05/94
Capture of MULINDI near camp KANOMBE	15/05/94
Capture of camp KANOMBE	22/05/94
Capture of KANOMBE international Airport	22/05/94
Capture of GIKONDO (MAGERWA)	26/06/94
Capture of GIKONDO (ELECTROGAZ)	01/07/94
Capture of MBURABUTURO	03/07/94
Capture of the totality of the capital city Kigali	05/07/94

Some of the dates are approximate
 This sector was split into two sectors around 25 April 94 which are Ops sector Kigali East and Ops sector Kigali West.

³ Infiltrated RPF troops arrived there before 07/04/94.

2. Operational Sector of MUTARA and KIBUNGO

EVENT	DATE
Capture of MUVUMBA	07/04/94
Capture of NYAGATARE	07/04/94
Capture of GABIRO	09/04/94
Capture of MURAMBI	14/04/94
Capture of RUKARA	14/04/94
Capture of KAYONZA	17/04/94
Capture of RWAMAGANA	18/04/94
Capture of OPS Sector KIBUNGO	22/04/94

3. **Operational Sector BUGESERA**

EVENT	DATE
Capture of GASHORA breakwater	05/05/94
Capture of camp GAKO	05/05/94
Capture of RWABUSORO	26/05/94
Capture of NYANZA	29/05/94
Capture of MUYIRA	27/06/94
Capture of BUTARE	04/07/94

4. **Operational Sector GITARAMA**

EVENT	DATE
Capture of RUHANGO	30/05/94
Capture of BYIMANA	30/05/94
Capture of KABGAYI	02/06/94
Capture of GITARAMA (the totality of the town)	12/06/94
Capture of MUSHUBATI	12/06/94
Capture of MUSAMBIRA	18/06/94
Capture of RUGENDE	20/06/94
Capture of RUNDA	20/06/94
Capture of NYARUTEJA Bridge (RUYENZI)	04/07/94
Capture of TABA-REMERA	05/07/94
Capture of KAYENZI and NYABIKENKE	06/07/94
Capture of BURINGA-NDIZA-CYOME	08/07/94
Exile	17/07/94

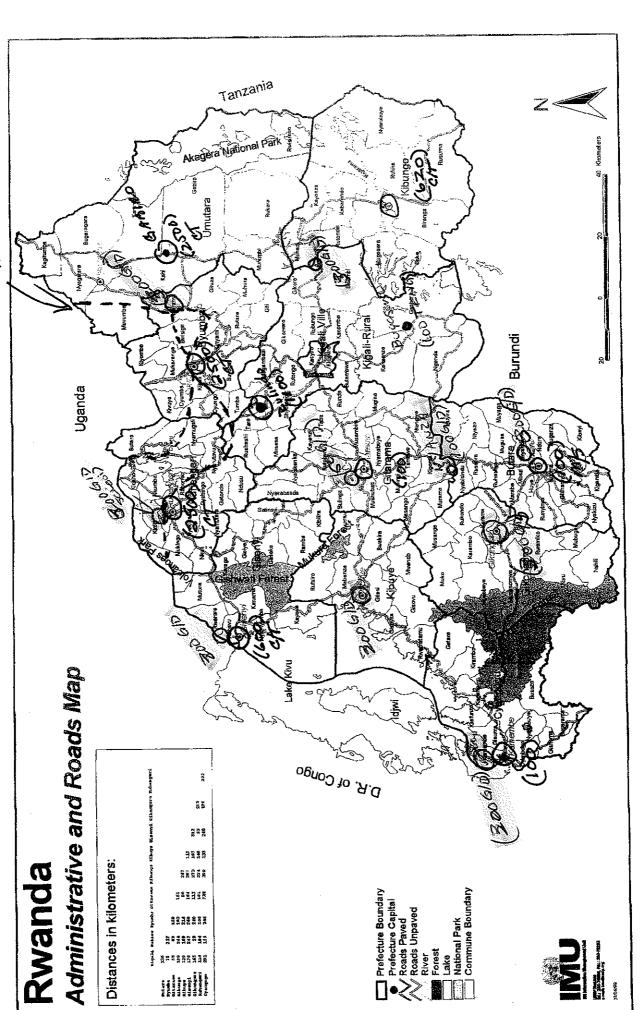
5. **Operational Sector BYUMBA**

Event'	DATE
Evacuation of BYUMBA	20/04/94

6. Operational Sector RULINDO

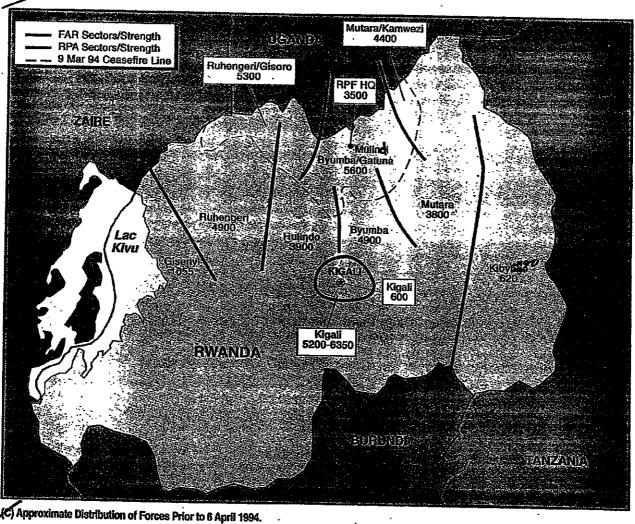
ÉVÉNEMENT	DATE
Capture of RULINDO OPS sector	07/07/94

21/1 about 21/2 - 2010 H/90



1 dew

SECRETANOFORM



the Strategic Reserve. The government forces were

better equipped than the RPA and, prior to the 1990 civil war, were very competent by regional standards.

(SOM) As a response to the civil war in the north, the military expanded from 7,000 to 31,000. The new conscripts received little training, which severely reduced the military's overall effectiveness. Thus the RPF, a much smaller and less equipped force, has been able to achieve significant gains in its latest offensive. The government is expected to replace its losses through rapid conscription, which will further degrade the quality

of government forces. Numerical superiority in this case does not equate to battlefield success in Rwanda.

(SAF) The government's elite units tend to be better led and disciplined and remain relatively effective organizations. These units allow the government to hold onto portions of Kigali, particularly the airport. They are key to government survival; should these elements be rendered combat ineffective, little will stand in the way of a total rebel military victory.

(S/NE/WN) The RPA is predominantly a light infantry force armed with a variety of small arms and infantry

SECRET

MAPIL

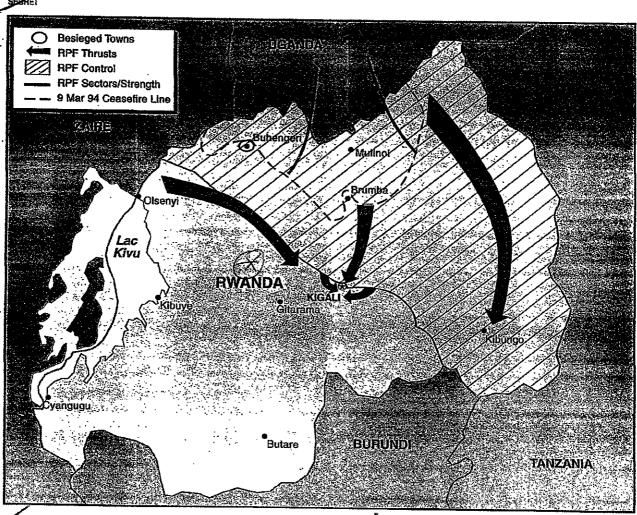
Adapted from Map No. 3807.1 UNITED NATIONS September 1993

some Presidential Guard elements challenged RPF gains. The paracommando battalion counterattacked, and it appeared that the RPF attack had stalled; however, the RPF was consolidating and reinforcing its gains.

(SAF) Both sides declared cease-fires early in the week of 26 April. They appeared to be posturing for the final battle for Kigali, the prize for the political elites battling for control of Rwanda. It appears that the battle began on 6 May as the RPF seized additional areas on the periphery of Kigali. As of 8 May, their forces were 300 meters from the vital western intersection to Gitarama and had taken the high ground tothe northeast of the airport. On 9 May, rebels attacked

the Kanombe barracks, key to the government's defense of the airport. The RPF must figure out how to eliminate the government forces at the airport without hitting the UNAMIR troops there and, at the same time, not to destroy the airport, which is critical for humanitarian assistance. Figure 2 shows the RPFcontrolled areas and RPF thrusts as of 9 May.

(SAVF) According to the U.S. Ambassador prior to the offensive, RPF-controlled areas were devoid of civilians because of Hutu distrust and fear. It appears that this perception of the RPF by Hutus is changing because displaced persons have been moving into rebel territory. Though lacking sufficient forces to

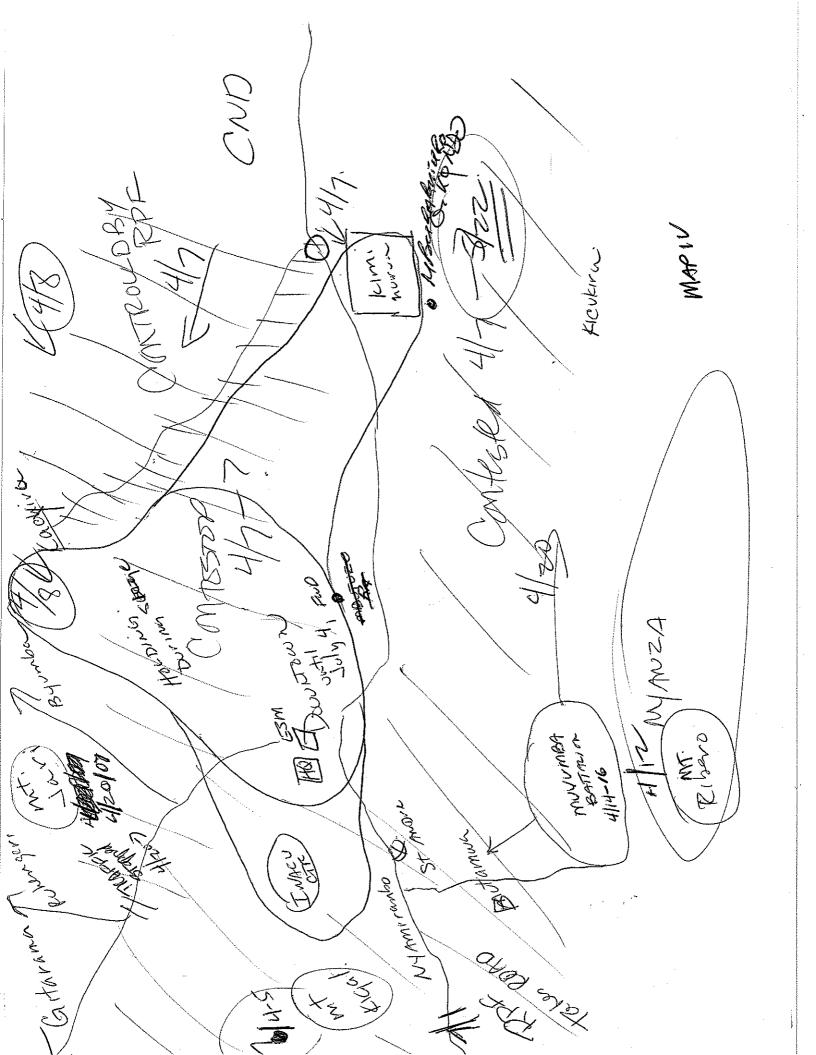


5

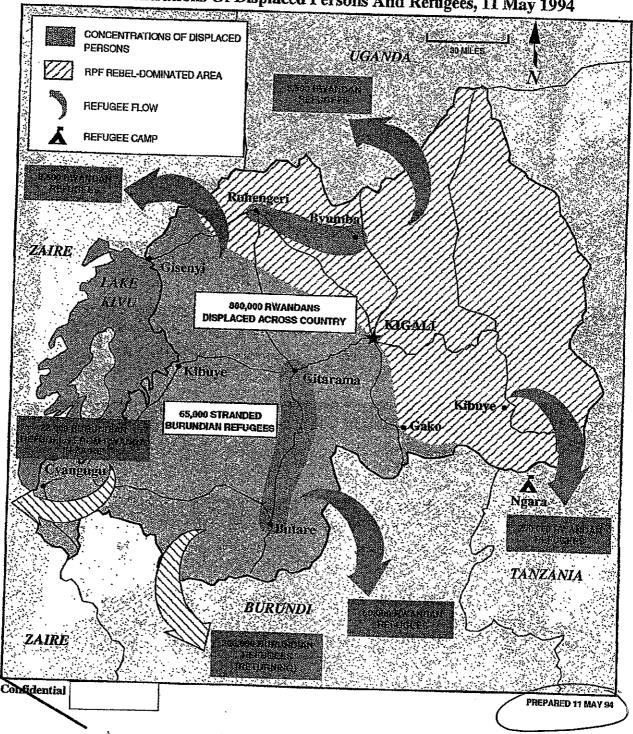
RPA Offensive Thrusts and Occupied Territory as of 9 May 1994.

MAPILA

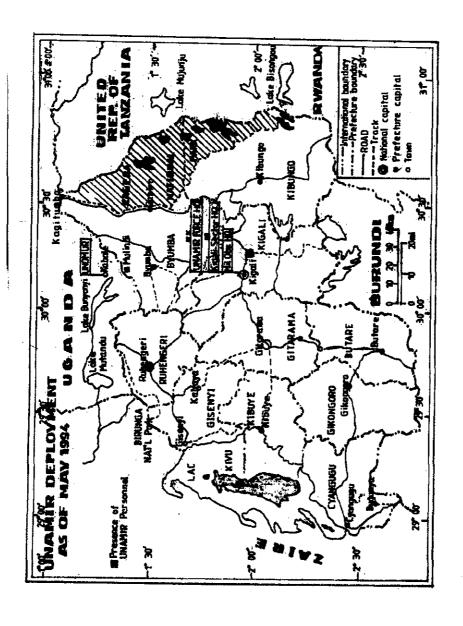
M25 Marthin WE KOZEK REP Controlled 14/8 (er) myp III 7 V4/8/EAR W 10 sept 1 Kiestiru THE POST OF (K)

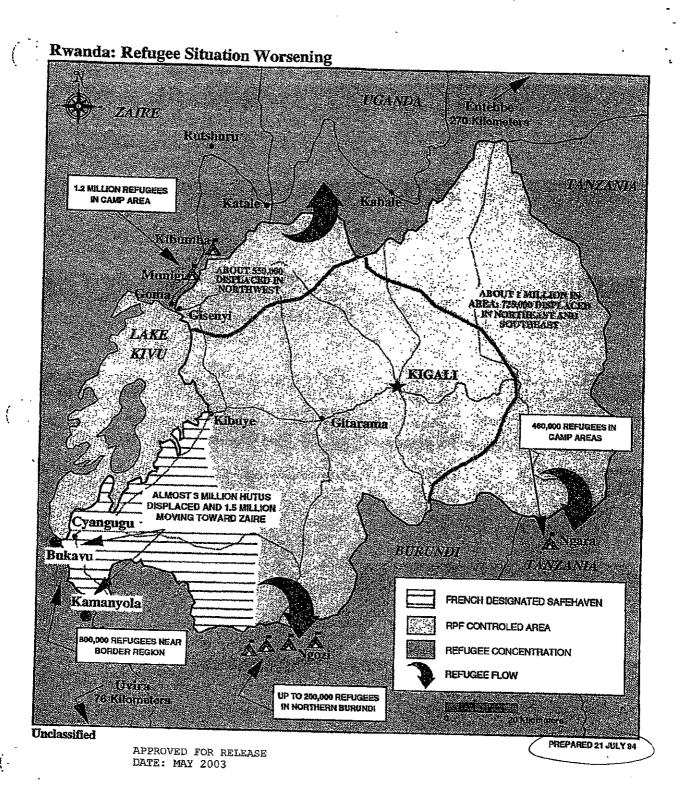


Rwanda: Concentrations Of Displaced Persons And Refugees, 11 May 1994



MAPT





MAP UT