

and 3,200 animals was proceeded with as rapidly as possible and completed in 30 hours.

A quantity of ammunition and grain, also a few prisoners were taken at Hafir.

The troops advanced on the evening of the 21st September, halting at Binneh, and reaching, on the following morning, the south end of Sowarat within six miles of the Dervish Camp of Dongola. The main Dervish force was reported to be in position in their camp, and from a reliable source I was informed that the leaders had resolved to make a determined stand there.

Meanwhile the gunboats, after passing Hafir, proceeded to Dongola which the small garrison left by the Dervishes evacuated on their arrival; they captured the boats which were there, and on their return to Hafir on the morning of the 21st I again despatched Lieutenant Beatty, R.N., with a gunboat to reconnoitre; he found the positions reoccupied and immediately proceeded to engage the forts and shelter trenches which had been rapidly constructed. A second gunboat was despatched to reinforce him and the bombardment was kept up till the 22nd inst.

Early on the morning of the 23rd September the force advanced to attack the Dervishes. The new armed stern wheeler having arrived during the night, the four gunboats headed the movement and shelled the enemy. On approaching their camp our cavalry scouts reported them in position and exchanged a few shots, but on the nearer advance of the troops they retired to the rising ground on their left and subsequently were reported to be in full retreat. I immediately despatched the cavalry, horse artillery, and camel corps under Major Burn Murdoch in pursuit, and they followed up the retiring enemy for a considerable distance, inflicting on them some loss, and capturing a number of prisoners. The troops marched through the extensive Dervish settlement, which bore every sign of hasty abandonment; three guns, quantities of arms, ammunition, and loot of all sorts were taken, besides a large number of prisoners, whilst the gunboats, on the evacuation by the Dervish riflemen and artillery of the old Government buildings, at once occupied them, capturing three guns, and taking possession of the large stores of grain and dates collected there. The Egyptian flag was hoisted over the ruined Mudiria, and the Jaali Emir Hassan Wad en Nejumi with several of his followers and a number of Sudanese riflemen surrendered. The gunboats were ordered to pursue the retreating enemy and protect the villagers; they reached Debbeh in time to rescue a number of notables of the province, who were being carried off as prisoners, and occupied the fort at noon on the 24th inst., the Dervish garrison having evacuated it before their arrival. One gunboat continued the pursuit as far as Merowe, which was reached at dawn on 26th inst., a few of the enemy retiring rapidly on sighting the steamer.

The Dervish retreat can only be described as a rout, the large force having broken up into small parties moving independently, and retiring across the desert towards Omdurman and Berber by different roads; every effort was made to induce them to surrender, and upwards of 3,000 men, women, and children are now in our hands.

The result of these operations has been to completely stop the constant Dervish raids and attacks on the villages between Assuan and Halfa, to add some 450 miles of the Nile Valley to Egyptian territory, 300 miles of which may be described as of great fertility, and to relieve, to their intense delight, the large and suffering population of the province of Dongola from the

barbarous and tyrannical rule of savage and fanatical Baggaras.

These operations have, moreover, demonstrated the troops of the Egyptian Army to be possessed of high qualities of endurance and bravery; and I have only to add that no case of want of discipline or attempt to shirk duty has occurred—indeed the high spirit and eagerness which the troops have displayed under many very trying circumstances is beyond praise. Egyptian soldiers have frequently been found to have concealed sickness, and in spite of severe footsores to have marched uncomplainingly in order to be present with their comrades when an engagement was imminent.

The British naval forces engaged in this campaign consisted of Commander the Hon. C. Colville, Commander Robertson, C.M.B., Lieutenant Beatty, and a detachment of Royal Marine Artillery.

I have already referred to the excellent services rendered by Commander Colville, firstly in connection with the construction of the gunboats and subsequently in the gallant manner in which he commanded them until wounded, when the command devolved on Lieutenant Beatty who fought the gunboats in front of the enemies' batteries most persistently and successfully, eventually bombarding their positions at Dongola, and dismounting their guns.

Commander Robertson was unfortunately detained in the cataracts by the grounding of the "Teb," but arrived in time to take part in the general advance on Dongola, and subsequent pursuit to Debbeh; both he and Lieutenant Beatty had previously rendered invaluable assistance in connection with the passage of the steamers over the cataracts.

The detachment of Marine Artillery also did excellent work in connection with the passage of the cataracts and the building of the new gunboat, and their behaviour and conduct throughout has been most exemplary.

The British military forces taking part in the campaign consisted of:

The 1st Battalion of the North Staffordshire Regiment;

A detachment of Royal Engineers;

Maxim gun detachments from the North Staffordshire Regiment and Connaught Rangers.

The North Staffordshire under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Currie, were quartered during the early stages of the campaign at Halfa, and on the outbreak of cholera they were encamped at Gemai, from whence, on the resumption of operations, they were transferred to Kosheh and embarked on the steamers; at Abu Fatmeh they disembarked and marched with the Egyptian troops on Dongola, re-embarking on the day following the capture of that place, and returning forthwith to Cairo.

I cannot speak too highly of the excellent conduct of this battalion throughout the campaign; severely tried by the exceptional heat of the summer and a virulent outbreak of cholera, they maintained a cheerful spirit and performed valuable service in the repair of the damaged railway line. Though they had no opportunity of coming into actual contact with the enemy, I feel sure, from their excellent bearing and keen spirit shown on the advance against Dongola, they would have thoroughly upheld their high reputation, and would have afforded most valuable assistance.

The detachment of the Royal Engineers performed most valuable service during the whole period of the operations, and I have pleasure in recording my high opinion of the zeal, energy,