

Northumberland Fusiliers, were dispatched at once, and steps were taken to withdraw 100 of the 3rd West India Regiment, two companies of which had arrived during the month from St. Helena, and were at Port Lokko.

These proceeded to Bonthe on the 3rd May with Lieutenant-Colonel Cunningham, D.S.O., of the Sherwood Foresters and West African Regiment.

His instructions were to secure Bonthe and relieve the District Commissioner's station at Bandajuma.

Volunteer corps were formed at Free Town and Songo Town, both of which were said to be threatened; a small force of regular troops under Major Kennedy occupied the latter place, and steps were taken for the immediate protection of Free Town, in which there is a considerable Mendi population.

Her Majesty's ships "Blonde" and "Alecto" proceeded to Bonthe with the troops.

Two days later, the immediate danger having passed, the special precautions in Free Town were relaxed, and the town resumed its ordinary aspect.

Preparations were next made for the relief of Kwalu, headquarters of the Ronietta district, which had been twice attacked by insurgents, who assembled at Taiama, a large stockaded town 20 miles distant from it.

I accompanied the Column, consisting of 13 European and 20 native gunners, with a 7-pr. 25 1st West India Regiment, 30 Frontier Police, and 100 West African Regiment, which, starting from Songo Town on the 12th May, reached Rotofunk, after two slight skirmishes, on the 14th.

There it halted for several days, having learned that at the Kwalu garrison had repulsed an attack and was safe for the time, cleared the country round, and collected supplies of which it was but poorly provided, carriers not being obtainable then in Sierra Leone, owing, it was said, to recent losses among those in the Karene district.

It reached Kwalu on the 22nd May, and on the 24th, aided by Captain Fairtlough's Yonni allies, attacked and captured Taiama, a large stockaded town, and the following day destroyed others in the neighbourhood, with very slight loss, after which the column returned to Free Town, leaving a small garrison of the West African Regiment at Rotofunk, and a supply of ammunition and a 7-pr. gun at Kwalu.

Lieutenant-Colonel Cunningham, having organized a column at Bonthe, proceeded on the 9th May up the Jong R. in boats, towed by the steam-cutter of Her Majesty's ship "Blonde," meeting with some resistance.

He disembarked at Bopor, and on the 17th reached Mafwe, where, on the 19th, he was attacked in force, defeating the insurgents with heavy loss.

From Mafwe he detached columns, one of which, under Lieutenant Safford, 3rd West India Regiment, relieved Bandajuma on the 22nd. The same officer, with a party of 50 West Indians, attacked later and destroyed the stockaded town of Bandesuma, while a similar detachment, under Lieutenant Russell, of the 1st Battalion, captured and destroyed Bompe Mendi, the principal Mendi stronghold in that district, and the centre where the rising was arranged. In this action Lieutenant Russell was twice wounded.

At the time of the outbreak, Bandajuma, the District Commissioner's headquarters, was held only by 21 Frontier Police under Captain Eames, Captain Carr (King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry), the Commissioner being away with

the other 30 men. Hearing of the rebellion he hurried back, covering the last 43 miles in 22 hours, and reached his station in time to take part in its defence, an attack having been made at 2.30 A.M. on the 4th May. This was successfully repulsed, also another on the 7th.

After this, with the aid of some friendly Chiefs, Captain Carr was able to clear the country round for a considerable distance, but was cut off from other posts until relieved by Lieutenant Safford when his supplies were running short.

But for his promptitude Bandajuma might have fallen, and it is due to the energy shown by him and Lieutenant-Colonel Cunningham, and the officers under him, that this formidable rising of a tribe, reputed the most warlike in the Protectorate, was quickly suppressed with slight loss by a few police and troops, many of whom had been but recently enlisted.

Kwalu and Bandajuma having been made secure troops were available for the relief of the distant Commissioner's post at Pangoma, from which no news had been received for nearly six weeks.

On the 9th June Lieutenant-Colonel Cunningham dispatched from Bandajuma 45 Frontier Police and a contingent of friendly natives under Captain Eames, and on the 10th Captain Fairtlough started from Kwalu for the same object with 50 Police and a contingent of Yonnis.

During his absence Kwalu was held by a detachment of the West African Regiment under Captain Crofton Atkins, Sherwood Foresters.

The first-named column failed in its object owing to losses sustained by the allies at a place called Doidu. Both they and the carriers refused to advance further, and the police, encumbered with wounded, returned to Bandajuma.

Lieutenant-Colonel Cunningham then dispatched 50 of the West Indians and some Police under Captain Woodman, 3rd West India Regiment. These, moving by a fresh route, reached Pangoma unopposed on the 27th June, left there ammunition, provisions, and the police detachment, and returned to Bandajuma with the West Indians.

The garrison under Captain Blakeney, the Commissioner, were well, but had been more or less closely invested by insurgents for several weeks.

Captain Fairtlough reached Pangoma on the 23rd June, four days before Captain Woodman, having met with much opposition, the insurgents offering at times considerable resistance, constructing stockades, and blocking his road with felled trees. In his advance he captured Tungea and other stockaded towns, and forced the passage of the broad Schwa River. He was ably assisted by Captain Ferguson, 4th Battalion Norfolk Regiment, Commanding the police detachment, particularly at Moindu, where, to get boats for the remainder, he crossed the Schwa River in the face of the enemy on a small raft carrying six policemen.

After attacking and dispersing three separate bodies of insurgents round Pangoma, Captain Fairtlough returned by a fresh route to Kwalu, again fighting most of the way, and reached it on the 9th July. His losses during the month's operations were 3 Friendlies killed and 2 drowned crossing rivers; 6 Frontier Police, 4 Armed Messengers, and 22 Friendlies wounded.

The distance marched was 180 miles; the rainy season was at its worst, rivers flooded and ordinary streams broad swamps.

After the relief of Pangoma disturbances ceased throughout the Mendi country, though some Chiefs maintained a threatening attitude for a time about Woroma on the Moa River.