

section. These stormed the gate and entered the town, which was full of mud-wall enclosures, and where a sustained resistance was offered, the defenders being only slowly driven back to the rear of the town. The casualties among the enemy were very heavy, while those among our troops were Colonel Cole, severely wounded; and Captains Bryan and Abadie and Sergeant-Major Hefferman, slightly wounded; four rank and file killed, nine wounded, as well as one carrier.

The troops engaged in this affair were:—

Lieutenant-Colonels Cole and Morland.

Captains Bryan and Abadie.

Lieutenants Dyer and Macarthy-Morough.

Colour-Sergeants Hudson and Tucker.

Sergant-Major Hefferman, R.A., and Sergant Smith, R.A.

Drs. Grant and Thompson.

One hundred and eighty rank and file, with two Maxims and two 7-prs.

Colonel Cole brings forward for special mention the names of Lieutenant-Colonel Morland, Captains Abadie and Bryan, Sergeant-Major Hefferman, and Dr. Thompson (who sucked the poison from Colonel Cole's wound).

9. As I said in my previous report regarding the fighting against the Munshi, I greatly deplore the large loss of life among these brave though lawless and turbulent pagans. They, however, measure the force against them by the casualties incurred, and a "lesson" such as the Kadarās received becomes known over a very wide area, and prevents others, who would otherwise be inclined to engage in the pastime of fighting, from attacking Europeans, and hence, in the long run, it is probable that very drastic measures in the first instance result in the eventual saving of bloodshed. They result also in putting a stop to the kidnapping of our carriers, &c., and in obedience to a summons to cease from slave raiding in a particular direction. At the same time I am drawing up some precise instructions regarding the method of conducting punitive expeditions with a view to enforcing the laws of humanity and minimising the destruction of life and property of others than combatants.

10. I may include in this despatch two other petty skirmishes which have taken place elsewhere. I placed an officer in charge of the Preventive Service on the south frontier with a strong force, and I conferred upon him a commission as J.P. to deal with minor civil offences (with extended powers as regards liquor import). He had occasion early in May to arrest certain men engaged in disturbances (in which five had been killed and 20 wounded). The soldiers who effected the arrest were attacked on their return, and of a party sent to their relief under a native sergeant-major, two were killed and four wounded, but the native non-commissioned officer in charge dispersed the enemy, and appears to have behaved extremely well. On 29th March there was again occasion to use force against the inhabitants of Oka and Egbira. There was no opposition worth speaking of, but a few stray shots were fired at Oka, one of which killed a soldier; 100 guns and 25 barrels of powder were seized.

11. Major Burdon, Assistant Resident on the Lower Benue, recently reported to me that a slave raiding party had crossed the river, and besieged a town on the south bank, and he asked permission to employ troops to disperse the raiders. The late Royal Niger Company had stopped the raiding for slaves across the

Benue, and this was, I believe, the first attempt to reopen the traffic. Having ascertained that the affair could not lead to any prolonged or important hostilities I gave the required sanction. The expedition under Captain McClintock was very well conducted. Aduboa, a powerful town in league with the raiders, was taken by surprise before organised resistance was possible, and the people were most grateful for the relief. The two leaders of the raiding party were later seized at Udeni, and tried by the Civil Court.

12. I submit the names of Captain Bryan, Captain Abadie, Lieutenant Williams, and Lieutenant Loder-Symonds. The two former have done most excellent service, not only in this but in many other ways, and both are original members of the force, and intend to return again to it. I may say that I have not in the force two more valuable men and useful officers than these, and each has been continually selected for tasks requiring more than ordinary discretion and ability. I should be sincerely glad if both of them were awarded some further mark of your approval, nor could it be more judiciously bestowed. I would further request that the name of Sergeant-Major Moran may be brought to the very favourable notice of the Secretary of State for War. This non-commissioned officer showed great ability and discretion in the circumstances I have described, and I make it a handle to bring to your notice one of the very best non-commissioned officers we have had in the force, and one who has done two tours of service. Lieutenants Dyer and Phillips both showed great dash and pluck.

I have, &c.,

F. D. LUGARD, High Commissioner.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State.

Despatch relating to Field Operations.

Government House,
Northern Nigeria,

August 7, 1900.

SIR,
REFERRING to my despatch, W.A.F.F., No. 99, of 16th July, which, as I informed you, I was compelled to send before I had received a covering despatch with the various reports from the survey parties, I have the honour to inform you that Colonel Kemball has since submitted a report to me.

2. From this it appears that the fighting at Limu was of a much more serious character than I had gathered from the modest reports of Lieutenant-Colonels Cole and Morland, and he very strongly brings to my notice the gallantry displayed by both these officers. Lieutenant-Colonel Cole I have already recommended for your consideration. Colonel Kemball also brings strongly to my notice the excellent work done by Captain McClintock (Seaforth Highlanders), whom he describes as "probably the most valuable officer in the battalion, was in command of two minor operations, is an original member of the force, and is still staying on."

I trust the services of this officer may be favourably considered.

I have, &c.,

F. D. LUGARD, High Commissioner.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State.