

bringing the Wa-Nandi to submission reflects the greatest credit on him.

With regard to his letter recommending the services of certain officers, &c., for favourable consideration, I cordially endorse all that Colonel Evatt has said, and, in addition, I would call attention to the services of Mr. Stordy, mentioned in the body of the report, and to those of Captain Pelham Johnson, of the Army Service Corps, Acting Director of the Road Transport. Although the names of transport officers do not come prominently forward in operations of this description, a great deal of hard work, entailing serious continuous effort on their part, always falls to their lot, and I consider that the present opportunity of noticing the very valuable services rendered by Captain Johnson to the Protectorate should not be lost.

I would also, in consideration of the large amount of fighting which fell to the lot of No. 14 Company, Uganda Rifles, shown by the very heavy losses incurred by that company, bring to your notice the services of Captain Parkin and Yuzbasha Ebrahim Effendi Hassan. I consider that this is due to the local troops, who, before the arrival of Lieut.-Colonel Evatt, had a very difficult task to perform. It is quite possible that the men, most of them Somalis, may have suffered more heavily than was necessary, owing to the fact that their contempt of the enemy made them easier victims to ambuscades; still, the mails and convoys had to go forward; large escorts were not available, and had the escorts been actuated by more consideration for their personal safety, serious delay would very likely have occurred. I hope my recommendation may be favourably considered, as an acknowledgment of the undoubtedly good work performed by the local companies.

I have the honour to recommend also that a medal may be issued for the expedition, with a clasp inscribed "Nandi 1900," and that the medal and clasp may be issued to all officers and men in the Eastern Military District between Kisumu and Eldama (including Nandi Station, Fort Ternan, and Mumias), between the dates mentioned, viz., 24th May and 30th October.

I have, &c.,

A. H. COLES, Colonel,  
Commanding Uganda Rifles.

Lieut.-Colonel Evatt to Colonel Coles.

Fort Ternan,

SIR,

December, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Nandi punitive expedition:—

1. The following outrages were the immediate cause of military operations being undertaken:—

In March, 1900, the railway telegraph line in the Nyando Valley, between Molo Store and Kisumu, was reported to have been damaged by local tribesmen.

On the 24th May the Nandi were reported to have raided the telegraph office at Kitotos, and to have attacked a railway party at Camp Ya Blackett.

On the 8th June a bridge-repairing party was attacked near Abushire, and seven men killed.

On the 11th June a telegraph party was attacked at Camp Bagamoyo. One porter was slightly wounded, but the Nandi were driven off, one being killed.

On the 12th June the Nandi attacked a caravan of Messrs. Boustead, Ridley, and Co.,

near Abushire, killing one European and 16 natives.

On the 14th June the post at Abushire was attacked, and one man (Uganda Rifles) was killed, the Nandi being driven off with a loss of seven killed.

This post was again attacked on the 24th June; two men (Uganda Rifles) were wounded, the enemy losing 15 killed.

In the meantime, Captain A. Parkin, Commanding Eastern Military District, after instituting inquiries at Kitotos, attacked (with 25 rifles and some Masai spearmen) that section of the Nandi implicated in the raid on the telegraph office, killing 31 Nandi and capturing 229 head of cattle and about 1,800 sheep and goats. Captain Parkin was closely followed, but succeeded, with some difficulty, in reaching Abushire Post, having sustained a loss of two men killed and one man severely wounded.

On the 14th June the Officer Commanding Eastern Military District reported to military headquarters at Entebbe that the road between Nandi Station and Kitotos was unsafe, and on the 16th June the Sub-Commissioner, Nandi District, telegraphed, asking for the dispatch of troops. I was authorised to make arrangements for the infliction of exemplary punishment on the Nandi, and to assume immediate control of the operations.

The following troops were available\* :—

One company Indian Contingent	} Diverted from reconnaissance duty towards Mount Elgon.
Half company local troops	
One company local troops	At Nandi Station.
One company local troops	Fort Ternan.
Half company local troops	Mumias.

2. The company at Fort Teruan remained at that post, the remaining local troops being concentrated at Nandi Station on the 6th July, and the headquarters of the expedition, with the Indian troops, at Kisumu, on the 3rd July. The latter portion of the force advanced on the 5th idem, and, entering the Nandi country from the west, reached Abushire with little opposition on the 9th July.

It was here ascertained that the following events had in the meantime taken place:—

On the 7th July an escort of one corporal and four privates of the Uganda Rifles was attacked and destroyed near Abushire.

On the 8th July an escort of 25 rifles was attacked near Abushire, and seven privates, Uganda Rifles, and two others were killed.

On the 9th July an escort of seven rifles was attacked near Abushire, and four were killed, the enemy being beaten off with a loss of seven killed.

I have no doubt that these casualties were mainly due, in the first instance, to failure to observe the orders I had issued, closing the road except for specially arranged convoys, to neglect of standing orders, and to the escorts having been surprised on the march in unfavourable formations, owing to the troops not realising the determined hostility of the enemy, and, probably, in some measure to their holding them in contempt. The nature of the country lends itself to ambuscades, and it should be remarked that on all occasions the escorts

\* Strength.—British officers, 5; British non-commissioned officer, 1; Indian troops, 105; local troops, 268.