

Veterinary Officer to the Protectorate, who placed his surgical skill at my disposal at a time when there were a considerable number of severe wound cases, to attend which there was no medical officer available, in consequence of the regretted death in action of Dr. J. L. Sherlock. I would invite attention to the testimony recorded in the medical report on the expedition on the care and skill with which these cases were conducted.

I have especially to mention the services of Colour-Sergeant James Ellison, R.M.L.I. This non-commissioned officer has throughout the expedition distinguished himself for his untiring energy and desire to render all and every service possible. He has been (owing to sickness amongst officers) on several occasions in independent command of a detached column, whose operations he has conducted with ability and success.

I also wish to record my acknowledgments of the services rendered by Lieutenant Kenneth Henderson, 1st Battalion (Indian contingent) Uganda Rifles, who acted as my Staff Officer until incapacitated through severe wounds received in action, and of those of Lieutenant J. Whittle, 5th Battalion Liverpool Regiment, who subsequently carried on the duties of the appointment to my entire satisfaction by his energy and attention to duty.

I have, &c.,

J. EVATT,

Lieutenant-Colonel,

Commanding Nandi Punitive Expedition.

War Office, September 10, 1901.

THE following Despatches have been received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Governor Sir G. C. Denton to Mr. Chamberlain.

—(Received April 22nd, 1901.)

Despatch relating to Field Operations.

Government House,

Bathurst, Gambia,

SIR,

April 4, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a despatch from Lieut.-Colonel Brake, D.S.O., Commanding the Gambia Expedition, in which a full account of the proceedings of the expeditionary force is given for the period extending from the date of Colonel Brake's appointment to the command of the Gambia Field Force to that of his departure from the Colony on the 2nd instant.

2. Colonel Brake has given such a minute and accurate description of all that has occurred that it only remains for me to add a few words in support of the opinions he has expressed. I am quite in accord with him in his estimate of the value to the Colony of the recent expedition, and I am confident that, at any rate for a very considerable time to come, the different native peoples of the Protectorate, recognising the futility of resistance to British authority, will accept the responsibilities imposed on them by us, and prove obedient and law-abiding.

3. One very pleasing incident of the expedition has been the very few charges that have been made against the troops for offences against the inhabitants of the country. In only two cases was anything of at all a serious nature alleged, and in both of these the allegations proved on investigation to be groundless. This speaks well for the discipline that has been maintained, and reflects the greatest credit on Colonel Brake and the officers serving under

him; in this connection I may perhaps be allowed to say that as far as my opinion goes, the half battalion of the Central Africa Regiment, recently serving in the Gambia, is by far the smartest and most soldier-like body of men I have seen on the West Coast of Africa.

4. My best thanks are due to Colonel Brake for his unvarying kindness and courtesy, and the Colony is much indebted to him for the valuable services he has rendered it. He has throughout shown the greatest consideration for the natives of the country, and to any suggestions I may have thought it my duty to make he has given the most prompt and ready attention.

5. With your permission I beg to recall to your notice the valuable services rendered to the expedition by Captain Sparkes and the officers of H.M.S. "Forte," "Dwarf," and "Thrush." During the three months the expedition has lasted Captain Sparkes has been untiring in his efforts to render it successful, and I have no hesitation in saying that had the assistance he gave this Government been less cordial and thorough, very many difficulties must have arisen, which it would have been impossible to meet except at great expense and with long delay.

6. The arrangements with the Government of Senegal, which were required in connection with the concerted operations against Fodi Kabbah, were most ably carried out by Captain Arthur.

7. I would also bring to your notice that the preliminary arrangements for the expedition, as far as this Colony is concerned, which proved most satisfactory, fell entirely upon Mr. H. M. Brandford Griffith, who acted as Administrator from the date of Sir R. Llewelyn's departure in March, 1900, until my arrival, on the 10th January last.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,

Governor.

From the Officer Commanding Gambia Field Force to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Bathurst, The Gambia,

March 31, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following report on the military operations in the Colony of the Gambia, which took place during the months of January, February, and March, 1901.

2. Before detailing the operations it may be well to recall the events which led to their being undertaken.

On 14th June, 1900, Messrs. Sitwell and Silva, Travelling Commissioners, were murdered with their escort of police at the village of Sankandi, in the Kiang district, inhabitants of the neighbouring town of Dambutu being largely implicated. At the time there were no troops in Gambia, and, on account of the war in Ashanti, none could be spared from Sierra Leone or elsewhere, and, consequent on the apparent impunity with which the crime was committed, a dangerous spirit of disaffection spread through parts of the south half of the Colony, notably in Kiang and Jarra, several of the chiefs of which declared that the rule of the British was at an end, and refused to recognise the power of the civil authorities. This disloyal feeling spread to the north bank, and in December, 1900, Mr. J. H. Ozanne, C.M.G., Travelling Commissioner, was obliged to escape by night from the large town of Salikeni, on account of the threatening behaviour of the natives. For a time it appeared that outside Combo British authority no longer