

strength and composition being:—Head-quarters Staff; one and a half companies, 3rd Battalion West India Regiment; three companies 2nd Battalion Central Africa Regiment; demolition party Royal Navy; one 7-pr. R.M.L. gun; four Maxims. A half company 3rd Battalion West India Regiment was left at Tendebar. At Batelling, Lan Sanyang, chief of that town, and son of the chief, Mansah Koto, who had been killed with Messrs. Sitwell and Silva, joined me, with some 50 followers, horse and foot. They were ordered to wear a bunch of leaves in the headdress, so that the troops might recognise them, and were then sent on to form a screen of scouts in front of the column, with orders to capture all persons they might meet, but on no account to fire. They performed these duties well, and by hiding in the grass were able to capture all the natives met with, and thus effectually prevented news of the advancing column reaching the enemy.

9. At 11.45 a.m. the scouts reported that Dumbutu was in sight, and going forward to reconnoitre I found that the town consisted of two collections of buildings, one of large size, lying in an open cultivated plain. To the right of the line of march a patch of scrub and high grass offered good cover, and by moving the troops through this I was able to bring them within a quarter of a mile of the town, unobserved by the enemy. I ordered Major A. W. V. Plunkett, 2nd Battalion Central Africa Regiment, to march with two companies of that regiment with all speed round the left of the town, and place himself between it and the French border, here about one mile distant, and when he was in position I advanced with the rest of the troops through the fields.

The surprise was complete, and before any considerable number of the enemy could escape the troops had barred all exit. The town, part of which was defended by a stockade, was seen to be full of armed men, but a white flag was hoisted, and they appeared about to surrender, when a heavy fire was opened on one of the advancing companies, and almost simultaneously upon all the troops from the doors of the houses and the compound walls. It was fortunately badly aimed, and little damage was done. At this time parties of the enemy endeavoured to break through the cordon, but most of them were driven back.

Early in the engagement the headman, Mai Dabu, was captured, and as there were many women and children in the town I sent him under escort to persuade the inhabitants of the hopelessness of further resistance, and after an engagement lasting over an hour they surrendered.

Of the five rebel headmen whose capture was desired, two, Karamu Dabu and Jaringo Darami, were killed, and three, Mai Dabu, Bakari Dabu, and Jaranku Darami, taken. Over 60 of the enemy were killed, and subsequently buried by the troops, and more than 200 men and women captured, all of whom, with the exception of 35 men, were released by His Excellency the Administrator on 15th January, when he visited Dumbutu.

Our casualties were as follows:—

Died of wounds.—One carrier.

Severely wounded.—One private 3rd West India Regiment.

Slightly wounded.—One private 3rd West India Regiment; two privates 2nd Central Africa Regiment; one camp follower.

10. The troops occupied the town, and the following morning (12th January) I marched

with two companies to Kwinella, a large town, two and a half miles from Tendebar, a considerable number of inhabitants being reported as actively disloyal. The troops were halted outside the town, and I requested Mr. H. L. Pryce, Travelling Commissioner, who accompanied the column, to summon the headman, and order him to arrest the leading rebels. Those present in the town, three in number, were arrested and handed over to Mr. Pryce, and the troops returned the following day to Dumbutu.

Owing to the difficulty experienced in navigating the Vintang, the companies despatched up that creek were not able to reach Sandeng and Jaror till the evening of the 11th January. They met with no resistance, and rejoined the main body on the 13th January.

Whilst awaiting the arrival of His Excellency the Administrator, small columns visited the neighbourhood, and spies were sent out to obtain information of the movements of the hostile natives. They reported that the town of Nema, where the Sankandi murderers had established themselves, together with other villages across the border, had been deserted by their occupants, who were living in the bush. A messenger was sent with a letter, informing him of my movements, to the Commandant of the nearest French post, which proved to be Sedhiu, on the Casamance River, and an answer was received on 21st January.

11. As no further resistance appeared likely in the Kiang district, I proposed to His Excellency the Administrator that the troops should forthwith move to the north bank to attack Salikeni, whence the Travelling Commissioner, Mr. Ozanne, had been driven in December last, and where some 3,000 men were reported to be in arms, before the news of the fighting on 11th January, and of the movements of the troops, could reach that place.

One and a half companies 3rd West India Regiment remained at Dumbutu to watch the frontier, and a half company at Tendebar, to guard the depôt and base hospital which had been established there. The remainder of the troops embarked on 16th January, and proceeded down stream to the mouth of the Jaring Creek, where the ships anchored for the night. It was hoped that by anchoring near the south bank and some distance from the mouth of the Salikeni Creek, the inhabitants of that town might, if news of the movement reached them, be deceived with regard to the intentions of the troops. The landing was to be effected in two parties, and the first party was transferred to lighters and boats at 4 a.m. It was intended that the ships should tow these to the mouth of the creek, where the steam cutters would take them in tow, the current in the main stream being rather strong for the cutters. Unfortunately H.M.S. "Dwarf" grounded on a sandbank, and the landing, which was to have taken place at 6 a.m., was not effected till 8 a.m.

A raised track, which it was impossible to leave, about 5 feet wide, led for nearly a mile through the mangrove swamps and had to be traversed in Indian file, but beyond it open ground was reached, and the leading companies were able to deploy and advance for the anticipated attack. The town of Salikeni was found to be about two miles distant from the wharf. It is situated at the crest of a gentle slope, at the foot of which a belt of rice fields offered a good position for defence. It was not until these fields had been passed that any natives