

were seen, but when the troops approached the town they were met by the chief with a few of his followers, all being unarmed, and it was seen that no resistance was intended.

Mr. Ozanne, the Travelling Commissioner of the District, was present, and pointed out the portion of the town occupied by the most disloyal headmen, and this being surrounded all were arrested. As at Dumbutu, the natives appear to have been taken completely by surprise, otherwise it is difficult to understand why they either did not resist the troops or escape across the French frontier, less than six miles away. Serious losses might have been inflicted on the troops whilst crossing the causeway, and again whilst wading through the rice fields, and that stubborn resistance would be offered was the opinion of the civil officials who accompanied me. A fine was inflicted on the town by His Excellency the Administrator, and a search for arms instituted, some 200 guns being discovered and confiscated. Flying columns were despatched to No-Kunda and Saba to disarm the natives and to bring in the chief of the former town. They were not opposed in any way.

12. The expedition left Salikeni on 20th January, and embarked for conveyance to the upper reaches of the river.

In order to shorten the duration of the operations and as the prospect of serious resistance on the part of the natives in any overwhelming strength was small, I decided to form the troops under my command into two columns, each to move in accordance with a definite programme, and at such a distance from each other that in case of either requiring assistance the other could reach it without difficulty by the river.

13. Accordingly, H.M.S. "Thrush" conveyed the two companies of the 3rd West India Regiment, with one 7-pr. gun, to Ballangar, where they landed on 22nd January, and commenced a march through the districts of Sanjal, Niani, and Bamkuk, visiting all the chief towns, and arriving at Lamin-Koto, opposite to McCarthy's Island, on 28th January.

14. As information had been received from the civil authorities that Jimbermang Jala, chief of Sandugu, and Nyakadu, chief of Wuli, intended to resist any troops entering their countries, and that the latter was erecting stockades, I proceeded with three companies 2nd Battalion Central Africa Regiment to Kanube, and marched thence to Misera, the chief town of Jimbermang Jala. The troops were well received, and the chief had an interview with His Excellency the Administrator.

I then proceeded to Bantoding, the chief town of Nyakadu, marching in two columns by Kambati and by Madina respectively. No stockades were discovered, and the chief appeared perfectly friendly and loyal, and accompanied me back to Kanube to meet His Excellency the Administrator. H.M.S. "Dwarf" ascended the Gambia to a point two miles below Basse, beyond which it was not considered advisable for her to go, on account of the shallowness of the river, and on her return journey with the Central Africa Regiment on board, this ship ran aground, and two days elapsed before she could be got off.

15. It was not considered advisable to enter Fuladugu, on the south bank of the river, this being the country ruled over by Musa Mullah, a powerful chief, on good terms with and loyal to the British.

The two companies of the West India Regi-

ment therefore returned to Dumbutu, and those of the Central Africa Regiment landed at Bai, in the Jarra district, on 1st February. From Bai this column, under Major Plunkett, visited the disloyal towns of Jassong and Buiba, where fines imposed by His Excellency the Administrator were collected by the Travelling Commissioner, and marching by Toniataba reached Kwinella on 5th February.

16. It had been my intention to have marched without any further delay through the districts of Kiang, Fogni, and Combo, which would have brought the operations to an end on 13th February. My presence at Bathurst was, however, required by the Administrator, on account of negotiations which had been commenced with the French with regard to combined operations against Fodi Kabba, a chief who had for years kept the valley of the Gambia in a state of unrest, and until definite information was received with regard to the movements of the French troops it was impossible to move my own.

The march through these districts did not, therefore, commence until 15th February, three companies of the 3rd West India Regiment traversing Kiang, and three of the 2nd Central Africa Regiment Fogni and Combo, but nothing worthy of report occurred. With this march the operations as originally contemplated ended.

17. From Bathurst the Central Africa Regiment returned to Dumbutu on 23rd February, and three companies of the 3rd Battalion West India Regiment, from that station, left the colony for Sierra Leone, on the transport "Dwarka," on 26th February, the half battalion of the Central Africa Regiment being considered sufficient for the work remaining to be accomplished. One company of the 3rd West India Regiment was retained to remain as a garrison in the Colony after the departure of the rest of the expedition.

H.M.S. "Thrush" had already left on 10th February, her presence being required by the Lords of the Admiralty at the Cape of Good Hope.

18. I have already mentioned Fodi Kabba. For many years the Gambia Colony had suffered from the raids of this chief, who, when driven out of the Colony in 1892, established himself at Medina, about six miles within French territory and 18 miles due south of Dumbutu, whence he harried both the British and French Colonies impartially.

It was felt that the presence of troops in Gambia presented a good opportunity of destroying his power once and for all, but as he lived in their territory it was necessary that the French should co-operate. Negotiations with M. Ballay, Governor-General of French West Africa, on this subject were opened on 15th January, and were favourably received, but as time was of importance Captain L. R. Arthur, Political Officer with the Field Force, proceeded on H.M.S. "Forte" to Dakar on 4th February, and had interviews with the Governor-General and with General Combes, commanding the troops in French West Africa, which were completely satisfactory.

19. A French expedition, consisting of 40 Spahis Sénégalais, 200 Tirailleurs Sénégalais, three guns, was being prepared for despatch to the Casamance River, and Captain Arthur was informed that it would land at Zinguichor and march on Medina, whilst levies under Musa Mullah approached that town from the east, in such a manner as to close all chance of escape. M. Ballay promised that Medina should be