

assaulted on 8th March at the latest. This date was somewhat later than the one first mentioned, which was six weeks from 16th January, namely, 27th February, but an earlier movement was impossible until officers from France could reach Dakar.

A further delay occurred, owing to the French gunboats conveying the expedition being detained in the Casamance River by stress of weather. It had been arranged that I should meet the French Commander at Zinguichor on the 3rd March to discuss the details of the operations, but after several alterations in their plans, Lieut.-Colonel Privé, Chief Staff Officer in French West Africa, and Commandant Rouvel, in command of the expedition, arrived at Bathurst on the 5th March, and the plan of attack was discussed and satisfactorily settled. I regret, however, that the date was again postponed, but the French officers pledged themselves to leave their base, Zinguichor, between the 12th and 15th March, and that the assault on Medina should take place between the 20th and 25th March.

20. It was arranged that the main body of French troops should advance upon Medina from Zinguichor by way of Bignona, whilst the cavalry worked round to approach the town from the south. The troops under my command were to take up a position along the frontier line to bar the roads leading to the northward. From the east the followers of Musa Mullah, reported to number some thousands, were to block the country between the Gambia and Casamance Rivers.

The French expedition was somewhat stronger than had originally been proposed, and numbered 40 Spahis, 400 Tirailleurs, three guns, with 18 officers and 400 porters.

21. The information regarding Fodi Kabba was vague. His chief town, Medina, was known to be surrounded by mud walls, and to be full of slaves, who were employed as fighting men, under three head chiefs, but no approximate estimate could be formed of their numbers. Less important strongholds were Nema and Dator, both believed to be stockaded.

22. In accordance with the above plan of operations, the company of the 3rd Battalion West India Regiment marched on 19th March to Bumari and Dumbutu, and the three companies 2nd Battalion Central Africa Regiment occupied the frontier villages of Kusambu, Sanya-Kunda, and Jandeng, strong picquets being posted on all the roads leading from Medina. My headquarters was established at Sanya-Kunda, and a detachment remained at Sandeng, on the Vintang, to watch the crossing there.

Two 7-pr. guns, manned by the Bathurst Police, under Superintendent J. Brown, joined me, and a body of native levies, about 100 strong, was raised by Mr. G. H. Sangster, Travelling Commissioner, to furnish advanced picquets on the roads and to collect information. These levies wore a distinguishing badge of yellow, that in use by the French being red. Letters, informing me of the progress of his march, were received from Commandant Rouvel, commanding the French column, on the 18th and 21st March, the latter announcing that he hoped to be in the vicinity of Medina on the 23rd March.

23. At noon on that day the sound of the French guns reached our camps, and continued till 3.30 p.m., when the magazines were heard to explode. The following morning a letter from Commandant Rouvel reached me, announcing

that the town was bombarded from noon to 3.30 p.m., and stormed at 4 p.m. The Commandant suggested that I should visit his camp to discuss future operations.

On the 25th March I therefore proceeded to the French camp with my staff officers, and was most hospitably received. We were conducted over Medina, the buildings in which had been completely destroyed by the French guns, which, firing melinite shells, had effectually breached the walls. The losses of the French were two Tirailleurs killed and seven wounded, whilst of the enemy 150 were killed and 50 captured, amongst the former being Fodi Kabba himself. Owing to the fact that Musa Mullah's levies had not approached sufficiently near to the town when the attack was delivered, a large number of Fodi Kabba's followers, passing through the breaches, effected their escape in an easterly direction.

24. The French troops halted at Medina till the 28th, to await the arrival of a convoy of provisions and to rest, as they had suffered severely from the excessive heat. I placed a lighter at the disposal of Commandant Rouvel to facilitate his passage of the Vintang at Kusakong, and Lieutenant G. P. E. Hunt, D.S.O., Royal Navy, kindly volunteered to superintend the operation of crossing. The new objectives of the French were Nema and Dator.

To effectually co-operate with them the company of the West India Regiment moved, on the 26th March, eastward to Sotokoi and Jollofin, the three companies of the Central Africa Regiment occupying the frontier line from Dumbutu to Bumari, with a detached post at Sandeng.

25. Information was brought in by the native scouts that both Nema and Dator were deserted by their inhabitants after the fall of Medina, and that the latter town had been occupied by a detachment of Musa Mullah's troops. This information was immediately communicated to the French. In consequence, instead of the whole French force moving forward, a flying column, under Captain Forrestier, left Medina on the 28th March, and crossed the Vintang, at Kusakong, on the evening of that day by means of the lighter. Nema and Dator were destroyed, and information was brought to me that Dari Bana Dabu was a prisoner in the French camp.

26. The object of the expedition having been completely attained, I gave orders that the 2nd Central Africa Regiment, with the carriers, should embark on board the transport "Dwarka" at Tendebar on the 30th March, for conveyance to Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast Colony. I wrote to Commandant Rouvel, informing him of my intended movement and the reasons for it, and told him that a company of the West India Regiment, under Captain Long, would remain at Kwinella until such time as its presence was no longer considered necessary by him. Further, I requested that the captured murderers might be handed over to Captain Long, or to Mr. G. H. Sangster, Travelling Commissioner. A letter was addressed to Captain Forrestier, commanding the flying column, informing him of my movements.

The company of the West India Regiment will remain at Kwinella until the temporary repairs necessary for the occupation of the barracks at Bathurst have been completed.

27. With regard to the effect of the operations thus brought to an end, I am confident that no further trouble with the inhabitants of Gambia and the neighbouring French territory need be anticipated for many years to come, and the