

in pursuit of the Emir and his following, and these compelled him to abandon his slaves and baggage.

Colonel Kemball reports that the men, some of whom had only recently returned from Ashanti, and had been continuously on service for nearly a year, marched well and showed great keenness. He especially mentions the following Officers and Non-commissioned Officers for their assistance on all occasions:—

Captain T. A. Cubitt, Royal Artillery, Staff Officer.

Lieutenant (Local Captain) G. H. F. Abadie, 1st West African Regiment, Intelligence Officer.

Captain G. C. Merrick, Royal Artillery, Commanding Royal Artillery.

Captain E. H. Lewis, 21st Lancers, Lieutenants C. V. Keyes, Indian Staff Corps, and C. F. O. Graham, Royal Marines, 1st West African Regiment.

Dr. Langley, Principal Medical Officer.

Colour-Sergeant E. C. Garton.

I concur in his recommendations. He estimates the enemy at about 5,000, and their losses at about 50 or more. Successful efforts were made during the night to save the town from incendiarism. Over 200 kegs of powder were destroyed.

Leaving Captain Lewis with 100 men as garrison, and having sent back Lieutenant Keyes and his party to Illo, Colonel Kemball joined me with some 200 men at Wuya, 7½ miles from Bida, where he was reinforced by Captain Cochrane with 100 men (escort), and we marched on Bida. I was myself a witness of the admirable manner in which the march was conducted. Without a hitch, at a pace of close on three miles an hour, the whole force, including the heavy guns, arrived in compact formation, which reflects especial credit on the training Captain Merrick, Royal Artillery, has bestowed on his gun-carriers. Owing to the arrangements I have already reported to you, no shot was fired, and the new Emir was installed without any chaos or bloodshed.

The Emir had been warned that he would be well treated if he remained, but would be pursued if he fled. He elected the latter course, and Captain J. C. H. Rigby, Royal Marines, captured three important chiefs, two of whom were wounded. These were released after they had recovered. Colonel Kemball brings to notice the names of Captain Rigby, Lieutenant H. A. Porter, 19th Hussars, and Colour-Sergeant F. West. Though there has not in these operations been any very hard fighting, or any long list of casualties on our side, I consider that this result is largely owing to the admirable dispositions made by Colonel Kemball, and I desire to bring his services to your notice. I am especially gratified that the fine towns of Bida and Kontagora are both intact, and that those who have suffered are the real culprits and not the lesser people, who are forced to fight for their masters. The mortal effect of the rapid and continued pursuit in both cases will be very great, probably much greater than the killing of any number of slaves and petty people in battle. It is, as I desired, the slave raiders who have themselves been hunted, and had to ride for their lives. All those whose names have been brought forward by Colonel Kemball have done good work on many occasions besides this, and I am at a loss to select between them. Most of them are original members of the Force, and I have frequently had occasion to bring to your favourable notice both Captain Cubitt, Royal Artillery, and Captain Abadie and Dr. Langley.

2. Tawari Expedition.—It was absolutely necessary to inflict punishment on the village concerned in the sad death of the Honourable D. Carnegie, and with rapidity to prevent a far-reaching effect from this untoward event. Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. G. L. Cole, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, left Lokoja on December 6th, with three other officers (including Medical), seven British non-commissioned officers, 127 rank and file, two Maxims, and two seven-pounders, and arrived near Koton-Kerifi the same evening. Starting at 8 p.m., he marched all the night over a very bad and overgrown path, and reached Tawari at 8 a.m., the distance being over 20 miles. The place was strongly fortified and most difficult of access, and the defenders seemed at first inclined to hold it stubbornly. Colonel Cole, however, stormed the gate, which he had blown in by shell fire, and little resistance was encountered. One private was killed and another was slightly wounded. The troops were under arms for 16½ hours, and were very keen. I consider that Lieutenant-Colonel Lowry Cole deserves great credit for the way in which he carried out these operations. He specially brings to notice the services rendered by (Local) Captain and Adjutant T. A. Rose, Royal Scots Fusiliers, and Battery Sergeant-Major Heffernan, Royal Artillery. I have already recommended Lieutenant-Colonel Lowry Cole to your consideration in connection with the Munshi campaign and again at Limu, where he was severely wounded. Apart from his war services, he has commanded the 2nd Battalion since February, 1899, and its smartness and discipline are the result of his training. I have already had occasion to bring forward the name of Sergeant Heffernan for good service in the affair at Limu (where he was wounded). He is an original member of the Force, and I strongly recommend him for consideration.

3. After the threatened attack on our small garrison at Wushishi, in July, 1900, I left Major O'Neill there to patrol the country and repel the raids which had become more and more aggressive, and to protect our canoes, which had been attacked by the levies of Bida and Kontagora. Many skirmishes occurred, in which our men behaved very bravely, though in several cases no Officer or British Non-commissioned Officer was present. The native Non-commissioned Officer showed much resource and intelligence.

On the 14th December, Sergeant H. Edwards defeated with heavy loss a force estimated at 100 horse and 700 foot. On the 15th and 16th Major W. H. O'Neill, Royal Artillery, and Lieutenant H. A. Porter, 19th Hussars, attacked and defeated the Bida raiders, who are said to have lost 50 killed at least. On the night of the 17th he marched on the hostile forces again and surprised them at dawn. He estimated the enemy at 500 horse and 1,000 foot, and states that they suffered at least 200 casualties. His own force consisted of himself, Lieutenant Porter, Sergeant Edwards, 8 mounted and 50 dismounted men. Again on December 18, he advanced towards Bida with Lieutenant Porter, and 18 mounted and 25 dismounted men, driving parties of the enemy before him. These he pursued up to the walls of Bida and actually entered the town with his handful of men and endeavoured to seize the Emir with his own hand. In a desperate hand-to-hand encounter he was badly wounded, but the opportune arrival of some of his men enabled him to put the Fulanis to flight and to effect a retirement, during which his party was much harassed. The other casualties, besides Major O'Neill himself, being one man severely and two slightly wounded. Major