

the Scouts to have established himself in a thickly-wooded ravine. The line of Scouts was strengthened on each flank by a section, and the guns were brought up to the front. The enemy for a time held the ravine tenaciously, but was unable to stand the case shot and Maxim fire, which searched his position from a hill overlooking it, and he retired, taking up another position on some high ground behind the ravine. He was again driven out of this position by shrapnel and case shot. The country becoming now fairly open, the enemy was slowly driven back on his final position. Here he made a most determined stand, and as our fire appeared to make no impression, Major Heneker decided to outflank him simultaneously on both flanks. This movement was most successfully carried out by Captain Venour, D.S.O., who, working his men round through the scrub thereby exposed a long line of deep trenches to enfilade fire. The "Cease Fire" was then sounded and the whole line advancing, charged into the trenches and turned the enemy out at the point of the bayonet.

Our casualties were only two men killed, this being due to Major Heneker's good dispositions and to the admirable way in which the Scouts performed their duties.

On December 24th, I advanced on Aro-Chuku with No. 4 Column (which had by then been reinforced by No. 2 Column), and occupied that place without opposition. The town was burnt and a strong position taken up. That night the enemy attacked in force, and there was for 36 hours continuous fighting between him and the outposts, who lined the edge of a plateau and were defiled from his fire. We thus suffered only a few casualties.

On December 28th, Lieutenant-Colonel Festing's combined column marched in to Aro-Chuku from the north, causing the enemy in the immediate neighbourhood of Aro-Chuku to lay down his arms and surrender.

10. From December 25th, 1901, to January 13th, 1902, small columns operated in the country around Aro-Chuku; one under Lieutenant-Colonel Festing operating as far as Oloko, another under Captain G. W. Hewett, West India Regiment, on the other side of the Cross River in the Uwet country; others again in the nearer vicinity.

The order given to the various columns was to disarm the inhabitants of all rifles and cap-guns, which caused considerable resistance on their part, but all engagements with the enemy resulted in victory to our arms.

The columns under Lieutenant-Colonel Festing and Captain Hewett did exceptionally good work, resulting in the complete submission of the inhabitants of the districts through which the columns marched.

The "Long Ju-Ju" was blown up and utterly destroyed; Okori-Torti, one of the ringleaders of the Obegu massacre, and other important chiefs were arrested. A strongly fortified post with an earthwork parapet and ditch was made on the site of the camp at Aro-Chuku, and a well was dug giving a supply of 130 gallons of water per hour.

All stores in the Base Hospital at Itu were moved to Aro-Chuku, swamps were corduroyed, rivers bridged and good roads made in the surrounding country.

Our casualties between December 25th and January 13th were Captain T. A. Rose, Royal Scots Fusiliers, slightly wounded; natives, five severely, and four slightly wounded.

11. The general idea of this objective was to throw three strong columns, supported by a fourth, into the country lying West of the Cross

River, marching on a front of 40 miles, and converging on Akwete. Each column received orders to throw out smaller columns in a direction south of its line of advance, in order to thoroughly sweep the country intervening between the lines of advance of the several main columns.

12. No. 3 Column, consisting of 13 Europeans, 1 Native Officer, 284 rank and file, 1 M/m gun, 2 Maxim guns, 63 gun-carriers, and 191 general carriers, under the command of Captain W. J. Venour, D.S.O., Royal Dublin Fusiliers: concentrated at Big Ikpa market place, on the Cross River, on January 15th, 1902, with orders to sweep the country between the Cross and Kwa-Ibo Rivers, covering a front of 10 miles on a line drawn between Big Ikpa and Enan.

No. 2 Column, consisting of 16 Europeans, 1 Native Officer, 277 Native rank and file, 1 M/m gun, 2 Maxim guns, 62 gun-carriers, and 159 general carriers, under the command of Major Heneker, concentrated, on the 15th January, at Itu, with orders to sweep the country between its line of advance from Itu to Enan, and the line of advance of No. 3 Column.

No. 1 Column, consisting of 15 Europeans, 259 Native rank and file, 1 M/m gun, 2 Maxim guns, 77 gun-carriers, and 220 general carriers, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, D.S.O., started direct from Aro-Chuku, on January 16th, with orders to sweep the country lying between its line of advance from Aro-Chuku to Akwete and the line of advance of No. 2 Column.

No. 4 Column, consisting of 15 Europeans, 151 Native rank and file, 1 Maxim gun, and 220 general carriers, under my personal command, concentrated at Itu, on January 16th, to act as a support to the other three columns.

13. No. 1 Column left Aro-Chuku on January 16th, and arrived at Akwete on February 1st, having had several severe engagements with the enemy in the Obinkita and Kwa countries; notably in an action at Ifugor on the 25th January, where the enemy made a stubborn resistance, but was severely defeated. He defended himself behind well constructed trenches and pits, but was outflanked on this and every other occasion, and his positions rendered untenable.

The casualties sustained by this column were as follows:—Captain G. A. Sabine, 3rd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, severely wounded, eye; Lieutenant L. H. M. P. Cockerell, Royal Berkshire Regiment, severely wounded, chest; Sergeant-Major Jordan, Royal Berkshire Regiment, severely wounded, thigh; Sergeant Bramwell, Royal Lancaster Regiment, slightly wounded; natives, four killed, 13 wounded.

14. No. 2 Column left Itu on January 16th, followed a day later by No. 4 Column. These columns were broken up into smaller columns which traversed a large portion of the Ibibio country as far as Thiaku, disarming the population, who only offered a feeble resistance. On reaching the Kwa country on January 22nd, the enemy there made a stubborn defence, resulting in constant fighting for one week. The enemy, though well armed with rifles and cap-guns, and in great numbers, was unable to make any headway against my disciplined troops, and he suffered severe defeats.

At Ikotobo, on January 26th, the enemy treacherously ambushed a water picket under the command of Lieutenant J. Wayling, Canadian Militia and Southern Nigeria Regiment, and, but for the initiative taken by Major G. B. Hodson, I.S.C., and the conspicuous gallantry displayed by that Officer, as well as by Captain