

M. I. Goldie, R.A., and Second Lieutenant R. H. D. Tompson, R.A., the picket would have been annihilated, as well as the carriers whom it was guarding. Major Hodson called for volunteers, and without waiting to see if any one was following him, he rushed across the stream under a very heavy cross fire from the enemy. He was followed by Captain Goldie and Second Lieutenant Tompson. These three Officers held the opposite heights until the killed and wounded, numbering 7, were withdrawn, and the picket had formed up to cover the retreat of the whole party. Returning with reinforcements the same evening, Major Heneker inflicted summary punishment upon the enemy.

Enan was reached on January 27th, and a company under the command of Lieutenant A. J. Campbell, 19th Hussars, was detached, with orders to proceed to Essene. This company met with severe opposition, being attacked on one occasion at Ori-Equan, on January 29th, by the enemy in the open, but after three hours' engagement, he was forced to retire, leaving 15 dead on the ground.

The company reached Essene on February 3rd, while the remainder of the two columns arrived at Akwete on February 1st. The casualties sustained by these two columns were as follows:— Lieutenant A. J. Campbell, 19th Hussars, severely wounded; natives, four killed, 20 wounded.

15. No. 3 Column left Big Ikpa on January 16th, and advancing into the Ibibio country, arrived at Aka on the 19th. Up to the 22nd January but little resistance was encountered. Guns were handed in and good roads made. Returning to Aka on January 22nd, the enemy attacked the camp at night, but was repulsed and suffered considerable loss. The following day some further fighting ensued with a like result.

On February 6th the column arrived at Enan, having done excellent work in the interval, road-making, bridge-building, and capturing guns.

At Enan a company of Lagos troops, under the command of Captain (local Major) J. G. O. Aplin, C.M.G., 3rd Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, was detached to proceed to Eket, the remainder of the column continuing its march to Azumini. At Ekoteret this portion of the column had severe fighting on the 8th February. The enemy concealed himself in the thick bush behind the several market places and poured in a heavy fire as the troops debouched into these open squares. The enemy's positions were rushed, he was driven out, and no further opposition was met with up to the arrival of the column at Azumini, which was reached the same day.

Major Aplin's company, which left Enan on February 7th, was opposed on the 8th at a town called 'Ndot, the enemy using bows and arrows. He was driven off, but resumed hostilities about a mile further on, and was again defeated. The company then marched unopposed to Eket, capturing many guns en route, and arriving on February 18th.

The company left Eket for Azumini on the 19th February, and up to the 24th no opposition was encountered, but on that day, at Ikparakwa, at 8 p.m., the enemy made a determined attack on the camp, and was repulsed with loss. The company arrived at Akwete on February 28th.

The casualties sustained by No. 3 Column were as follows:—Captain Venour, D.S.O., Royal Dublin Fusiliers, and Sergeant Crowley, Royal Munster Fusiliers, slightly wounded; natives, 10 wounded.

16. The general idea of this objective was to throw out three strong columns, as follows:— One to (A) operate North of Akwete, in the country bounded on the West by the Imo River, and on the East by the Azumini-Aba road; another (B) to operate in the country North of New Calabar, as far as Epopfia, clearing up the country around Isokpo, Iba, Alimini, and Elele; while a third was to (C) operate in the Iga country, bounded on the West by the Azumini-Aba road, South by a line from Azumini to Abong, and East by a line running due North of Abong.

17. No. 1 Column, consisting of 18 Europeans, 227 Native rank and file, 1 M/m gun, 2 Maxim guns, 70 gun-carriers, and 269 general carriers, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, D.S.O., received orders to leave Akwete on February 2nd, and to sweep the country described in (A) of the preceding paragraph.

No. 2 Column, consisting of 16 Europeans, 220 Native rank and file, 1 M/m gun, 1 Maxim gun, 51 gun-carriers, and 315 general carriers, under the command of Major Mackenzie, concentrated at Isokpo on February 5th, with orders to sweep the country described in (B) of the preceding paragraph.

No. 3 Column, consisting of 13 Europeans, 304 Native rank and file, 1 M/m gun, 2 Maxim guns, 54 gun-carriers, and 194 general carriers, under the command of Major Heneker, had orders to leave Akwete on February 4th, and sweep the country described in (C) of the preceding paragraph.

18. No. 1 Column, from the time of its leaving Akwete to the 27th February, was perpetually on the move, visiting the towns within its scope of operations. The people were hostile nearly everywhere, and there was much desultory fighting.

On February 7th, when advancing on Omo-Odo, the column encountered much resistance. For $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles a series of parallel trenches were met with, from which the enemy disputed every inch of the way, running from trench to trench, and firing at (for this country) long ranges, i.e., from 150 to 300 yards. This delayed the advance of the column, and it was not till after dark that Omo-Odo was taken.

On the 23rd February, a company was detached with orders to proceed to a large town called Omuma. On entering the town the troops were fired on, and one man killed. The first compound was rushed and burnt. Desultory fighting then took place while the troops cleared and burnt 17 compounds, and then were obliged to retire as night was falling. On the following day Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, with the whole of his force, marched to and surprised Omuma at dawn, and destroyed the remaining 10 compounds.

On the 27th February the column marched to Asa, and halted there for further orders.

A considerable amount of country was traversed by this column during February. The casualties sustained by it were as follows:— Natives, 3 killed, 15 wounded.

19. No. 2 Column arrived at Isokpo on February 6th, and proceeded at once to march through the country North of New Calabar, visiting many towns, some of which were hostile and required to be punished, and some of which at once submitted and laid down their arms.

The enemy as a rule employed sniping tactics only, but on the 12th February, when the column was marching from Elele to Ubele, the enemy made a determined effort to oppose the column's advance. On approaching the town of Ubele, both the Advance and Rear Guards were simultaneously engaged, the former in fighting its way