

who had been murdering traders. He reached the villages on 6th February, and finding the people had fled set them on fire. While his men were somewhat scattered the enemy returned and attacked him, but were repulsed with loss, one man being killed on our side. On the 7th Lieutenant-Colonel Beddoes pursued these people into the hills, where they had taken refuge, and inflicted severe punishment on them, without suffering any further casualties, though the enemy kept up a heavy arrow fire from the rocks. These people sent in their submission later to Mr. Hewby, Resident, Upper Benue.

4. I left Ibi on 3rd February with the main body, and reached Bautshi on the morning of the 16th February. There was no opposition to our advance. The old Emir having been deposed by Mr. Wallace, who accompanied the expedition thus far as Political Officer. I left one company 2nd Battalion under Captain Plumer as garrison, having selected the site for a fort outside the town. Lieutenant-Colonel Beddoes returned from here to Lokoja, where his services were urgently required.

5. On the 19th I left Bautshi with the remainder of the force. Gombe was reached on 23rd February. Leaving Gombe on 25th of February, and following the course of the Gongola River, I reached Nafada on 27th. From here I struck south, with a view to interviewing Mallam Gibrella, and marching 21 miles on 28th, I camped near the small walled village of Gwurradigga.

6. Starting at daylight next morning, about 7.30 A.M., a scout reported large numbers of the enemy concealed in a donga about 500 yards to our left front.

The country was open and undulating, with scattered trees. Halting the head of the long column, which in single rank covered nearly two miles of the bush path, I ordered square to be formed as rapidly as possible, and advanced with the advanced guard of 100 men and a Maxim, and one 75 M.M. gun towards the enemy to cover this formation. They at once attacked in a most determined manner, numbering some 600 foot and 100 mounted men. This attack was met by a steady fire from the infantry in line kneeling, the gun firing case. In spite of desperate attempts to get to close quarters and envelop our flanks none got closer than 50 yards, and they finally broke and fled, losing 60 killed and a large number of wounded, among the latter being the Mallam's nephew, Sarikin Bajoga. Our casualties were only two men wounded, as they fired very little, but tried to get to close quarters with sword and spear.

7. Following the enemy towards Tungo I shelled that town, which is about seven miles from Gwurradigga, they fled in all directions. I then pushed on to Dukkul, seven miles further on, but found it evacuated; this was the residence of Mallam Jibrella himself, who had commanded in person. I camped here for the night.

8. On the second day I followed in pursuit, and during the next few days his followers deserted him, and I sent out flying columns to endeavour to effect his capture. Horses, banners, and followers were captured in large numbers, and Lieutenant Dyer with nine mounted men rushed his camp on 8th March, but he managed to escape into the bush.

9. On 11th March I reached Gujba with the main body of the force and waited the arrival of the flying columns. On 15th March, hearing that the Mallam with only three followers, was near Birmi, I detached Lieutenant Dyer with ten mounted men to capture him; his party rode 70

miles in 17 hours with a change of horses half way, effected his capture, and were back at Gujba 42 hours after the start, a very fine performance in a roadless country.

10. Leaving Gujba, where a company remained as garrison, on 17th March, Maiduguri was reached on early morning of 23rd, the column averaging 20 miles a day. The arrangements with Shiefu Garbai, being of a political nature, are described elsewhere.

11. With a small column of six Europeans and 200 soldiers and carriers, I left Maiduguri on 30th March for Kuka, and returned on afternoon of 6th April, having marched 201 miles in eight days, or an average of 25 miles a day.

The people everywhere were glad of our arrival. The whole of Bornu is now practically peaceful and well disposed towards us. I do not anticipate further trouble.

12. A company remained at Maiduguri as garrison; with the remainder of the column I left that place on 8th April for Yola, marching via Kobshi, Huyum, Kilba, Song, &c. Yola was reached on 18th April.

Some difficulty was experienced in making the pagan Marghi people in the neighbourhood of Kilba understand that our intentions were peaceful, but fighting was avoided.

13. At Yola, I handed over command of the force remaining to Captain Cubitt, and left for Lokoja by canoe, to enable me to reach that place by the date you had fixed. I instructed Captain Cubitt to carry out certain operations in the Bassama country and Wurkum Hills, which had been sanctioned by Your Excellency.

14. Captain Cubitt left Yola on 28th with two guns, two Maxims, and 130 men. Marching down the north bank of the Benue, the people of Banjerum, who had recently murdered five Hausa traders, attacked him on the 29th; he repulsed them with loss, killing 25. Lieutenant Dyer and Interpreter Ankraah were slightly wounded and one carrier dangerously wounded (since dead).

On the 2nd May Kwa was reached; these people had recently killed seven traders and one woman; they fled on the approach of the expedition, and their town was burnt; 32 skulls were found in one house; these people are generally reported to be cannibals. Lau was reached on 4th May.

15. On the 6th Captain Cubitt started with the infantry of the force for the Wurkum Hills.

On the 7th at Petogwu, after a skirmish in the morning, his camp was attacked at 5 P.M., the enemy were driven off with loss, and pursued for some miles. Further fighting took place on the 8th, after which the chiefs of the Wurkums came in and begged for peace. The whole district is now peaceful, and the roads open. Ibi was reached on 16th May, and the troops embarked in canoes for Lokoja.

16. I wish specially to mention the services of the following officers who took part in this expedition, which lasted over four months.

Captain Cubitt, Royal Artillery, as Staff Officer to the force, did splendid work throughout. I cannot speak too highly of his services. He commanded the expedition in the Bassama and Wurkum countries in a most efficient manner.

Captain Wallbach as Transport Officer was indefatigable; he is the model of what a Transport Officer should be in this country.

Lieutenant-Colonel Beddoes, 2nd Northern Nigeria Regiment, carried out the operations in the Yergum country in the early stages of the expedition in an efficient manner. His services were required at Lokoja, and he was unable to accompany the expedition beyond Bautshi.