

was checked by a heavy arrow fire. Shortly after this a still more determined attack was made by the enemy headed by the Mallam; the steady fire of the men and Maxim repulsed this charge, the dead lying in heaps in front of the gate. Major Plummer now led another charge on the gate, shooting three of the enemy with his revolver; but this attack also failed.

Captain Sword at 4 P.M. retired to a position 600 yards from the walls; he remained here till 7 P.M. His casualties were two soldiers killed, Major Plummer slightly and Sergeant Hayes severely wounded, 54 men and three Maxim carriers wounded. 150 at least of the enemy were killed. After due consideration he decided that a further attack would have little prospect of success and retired to Bautchi, which he reached on 23rd.

9. Meanwhile the ex-Sultan of Sokoto, Emir of Messau, with many other Chiefs, had reached Gwoni on the left bank of the Gongola, some 30 miles south of Burmi, not having entered the latter town, but having passed within a few miles of it. Captain Hamilton-Browne commanding at Gujiba, received news of the pursuit of the ex-Sultan on 12th May, at noon. He started the same night with one officer, 51 rank and file and a Maxim, and marching via Mutue to Gebe, a point only 20 miles north-east of Burmi, which he reached at 3 A.M. on morning of 14th, and at once despatched a messenger to Captain Sword.

Hearing later of the presence of the ex-Sultan and all the Chiefs at Gwoni and of Captain Sword's retirement from Burmi, he determined to march on the former place and endeavour to surprise the enemy. At 8 A.M. on the 17th, two scouts were captured. At 9 A.M. the ex-Sultan's camp was sighted close to the river. The enemy were completely taken by surprise, Maxim and rifle fire was at once opened, the enemy flying across the Gongola to the west, their entire baggage, 63 guns, a quantity of powder, many camels, horses and donkeys were captured.

The ex-Sultan now fled to Burmi, from whence he wrote a letter to Captain Browne asking permission to proceed to Mecca. He was told to surrender. Captain Browne not being strong enough to take further action at Burmi (the people of which place were much elated at Captain Sword's retreat), returned to Gujiba, leaving a patrol on left bank of Gongola to watch the movements of the enemy.

10. Major Barlow, who had left Zaria on 8th May, reached Gombe, 75 miles north-east to Bautchi, on 23rd with two officers and 60 rank and file of Mounted Infantry. On 26th, while moving to the east, he received news of Captain Sword's check and return to Bautchi, but hearing of the ex-Sultan's presence in Burmi he decided to push on to the vicinity of that place so as to be in a position to capture him if he attempted to leave it.

On 31st May he reached Ashaka, on Gongola River, two miles east of Burmi, and occupied that walled village, where he was joined by Lieutenant Lawrence and 40 men from the Gujiba garrison on the next day.

With the force on 1st June he proceeded to reconnoitre the town of Burmi, without attempting to force an entrance. He succeeded in drawing the enemy out into the open and killed a large number of them without loss on his side.

On 4th June he again attempted to draw them out with two sections of Mounted Infantry, posting the rest of his force in ambush one mile from the town, but the enemy refused to be drawn.

From the 4th to 18th June Major Barlow continued to harass the Burmi people by cutting off their cattle and food supplies. On the night of the 18th the enemy made a night attack on his force which consisted of four officers and 100 men holding the walls of the inner town of Ashaka. The enemy burnt the outer town and a few men succeeded in forcing an entrance into the inner town; the attack was finally repulsed about 1.30 A.M. Eighteen dead bodies were found close to the wall in the morning. Major Barlow's force had no casualties. Captain Sword with one officer, a Maxim, and 50 men from Bautchi, and Captain Hamilton-Browne and 30 men with Maxim from Gujiba arrived the next day, bringing up his force to a total of seven officers and 180 men with two Maxims. He continued to harass the enemy by day, but they made another night attack on the evening of 22nd, attempting to rush the south gate and south-west corner of the town. This attack was repulsed with loss. Lieutenant Lutman-Johnson and three men were slightly wounded on this occasion. On the 27th June further reinforcements arrived from Bautchi bringing the force up to 270 rank and file with three Maxims, at the same time my orders to the Officer Commanding Bautchi to await reinforcements with guns before renewing attack on Burmi reached Major Barlow.

11. The news of Captain Sword's repulse at Burmi was received at Zungeru on 6th June. After consultation with your Excellency, arrangements were made for concentrating a force of 500 men with three guns at Bautchi as soon as possible, and the officer commanding Bautchi was ordered to await these reinforcements. I was, of course, at this time ignorant of the action taken by Major Barlow and imagined he would join the Bautchi garrison. Two officers with half company of Infantry and a large supply of ammunition were ordered from Zaria to Bautchi. Major Marsh with eight Europeans, 165 rank and file, and a .75 mm. gun, left Lokoja for Loko by steamer on 13th June, but owing to difficulty with carriers at Keffi, and swollen state of the rivers, he did not reach Bautchi till 12th July. A similar force with two guns was held in readiness at Zungeru to proceed to Zaria under my command, but owing to favourable reports from you on your arrival there only one gun actually left Zungeru.

12. On 30th June Major Barlow proceeded with 30 Mounted Infantry and 80 Infantry and a Maxim to visit various towns in the vicinity of Burmi, at the Resident's request. All were friendly, with the exception of Great and Little Birri; these towns proved hostile; both were carried by assault on 5th July, the casualties being Lieutenants Christy and Zekki Effendi slightly wounded, 2 men severely, and 13 slightly wounded; the enemy lost heavily. Captain Sword remained in command of the remainder of the force at Ashaka and continued to harass the Burmi people, Lieutenant Gallagher and 15 Mounted Infantry inflicting considerable loss on a party of 200 of the enemy, who came out and attacked him while cutting off food supplies. On this occasion Sergeant-Major Dandola was wounded and one horse killed; 20 of the enemy's spearmen were killed within 10 yards of the square, and 30 at longer distances.

13. From Birri, Major Barlow proceeded to Nafada, 20 miles north of Burmi, to await arrival of Major Marsh's forces, the garrison at Ashaka being considered ample for defensive purposes, and food being more abundant at Nafada. Owing to difficulties on the road from Zaria to Bautchi the gun from Zaria had not reached Major Marsh when he left Bautchi. On 23rd July he joined