

Major Barlow at Nefada, and on 24th, having arranged for the co-operation of Captain Sword's force from the east, marched for Burmi, making a detour to approach it from the south-west, the probable line of enemy's retreat.

14. On 27th July, at 11.30 A.M., a junction having been effected with Ashaka force, the attack on Burmi began; two gates were breached by artillery fire, and a heavy front and flanking fire brought to bear on the defenders of the walls and trenches.

At 12, a storming party under Major Plummer advanced against the two gates which had been breached, but at 60 yards distance they were met by such a heavy fire from men unexpectedly concealed in the ditch in front that the advance was temporarily checked. Reinforcements were hurried up by Major Marsh, who accompanied them, and it was while directing operations at this time that he was wounded by a poisoned arrow above the knee which proved fatal in 20 minutes. The gates were now rushed by Major Plummer's storming party, the enemy offering a desperate resistance; and it was here that the majority of the casualties occurred. House to house fighting took place and the town was set on fire; another party entered by a westerly gate.

The ex-Sultan of Sokoto and many of his followers were killed near the south wall, a final stand of fanatics was made in the Mallam's house: the gun being brought in did excellent service under Captain Henvey. Major Barlow, who with the Mounted Infantry had been cutting off the retreat of the enemy at the north-west of the town, took over command at 4.45 P.M. The town was burnt and the force camped outside for the night.

The ex-Sultan, the Magaji of Keffi, and the greater number of the irreconcilable Chiefs and over 600 of the enemy were killed.

The force which took part in final attack on Burmi consisted of 18 Officers, 3 British Non-Commissioned Officers, 2 Residents, 2 doctors, 445 rank and file Infantry, with 4 Maxims, 60 rank and file Mounted Infantry, and 15 rank and file Royal Artillery with one .75 mm. gun.

The following were the casualties in the force:—Killed, Major Marsh, 4 rank and file, 6 carriers; dangerously wounded, 4 rank and file (1 since dead); severely wounded, Captain Hamilton-Browne, 26 rank and file, 4 carriers; slightly wounded, Major Plummer, Captain Lewis, 25 rank and file and 3 carriers.

The troops started to return to their several garrisons on 6th August, all opposition having ceased.

15. In summarising the many military reports I have received, I wish to make it clear that the various Officers concerned deserve the whole credit for the complete success of these operations. Remaining as I did at headquarters, except in the despatch of reinforcements and certain orders which were generally too late, I had nothing to do with the operations in the field. At the beginning small bodies of troops pursued and hustled large bodies of the ex-Sultan's followers some 400 miles. The fighting value of his people does not seem to have been great. Captain Sword's check at Burmi was more or less the result of an accidental meeting with a body of fanatics following a new Mahdi at Burmi; but if this had not taken place the movement might have been spread and caused much future trouble, and I think it is lucky that this movement has been checked in time. The ex-Sultan only retired to Burmi after his defeat by Captain Browne.

The operations extended over a period of three months, and a great number of skirmishes took

place where many Officers and men had opportunities of displaying individual initiative. The final action at Burmi brought the operations to a most successful conclusion.

I therefore feel justified in bringing to your notice the names of a somewhat large proportion of the Officers and men concerned, whose names have been submitted to me by the various Officers in command.

The following Officers are deserving of special mention:—

Brevet Major C. W. Barlow, Essex Regiment. This Officer accurately gauged the situation on his arrival, and adopted a bold course which was completely successful. He handled his men well on every occasion, and proved that in the open his small party had nothing to fear. He was the senior Officer till Major Marsh's arrival, and after his death a few days later; his valuable services at a somewhat critical time deserve recognition.

Major Plummer, 5th Battalion Munster Fusiliers, was present at both actions at Burmi, and was wounded on each occasion, in the final attack commanded the storming party, and was in command of attacking column for some hours after Major Marsh's death.

Captain R. Henvey, Royal Artillery, in the final attack at Burmi, at a critical period in the fight, brought his gun under close fire of the enemy to support the infantry attack, in which position it rendered signal service; out of his gun detachment one was killed and six wounded. His name has been specially mentioned by Majors Barlow and Plummer. This Officer has distinguished himself on several occasions in the last two years.

Captain W. Hamilton-Browne, 6th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, by his surprise of ex-Sultan's camp at Gwoni, headed him off from his movement east. He was severely wounded in final action at Burmi.

Captain W. D. Sword, North Staffordshire Regiment, for his energetic pursuit up to Gongola River.

Captain P. M. Robinson, Royal West Kent Regiment, Staff Officer to Major Marsh, specially mentioned by Major Barlow.

Lieutenant C. C. Maud, Somersetshire Light Infantry, S. H. Christy, 20th Hussars, and C. T. Lawrence, Hampshire Regiment, are mentioned for gallantry, the former on two occasions.

Lieutenant C. E. Gallagher, East Lancashire Regiment, with 15 Mounted Infantry in square, repulsed the attack of some 200 of the enemy and killed 50 of them.

No. R.A./78759 Sergeant W. T. G. Williams, Royal Horse Artillery, was specially mentioned for his services in the final action at Burmi.

No. Leinster/4007 Sergeant E. Hayes, Leinster Regiment.

Had Major Marsh lived I should have brought his services most prominently to your notice, for the able arrangements he made for the advance in and capture of Burmi. The death of this gallant Officer is a great loss to the Northern Nigeria Regiment.

Native Rank and File, Royal Artillery.

No. 22 Sergeant Maddamusa.

Mounted Infantry.

No. 658 Sergeant-Major Dandara.

No. 1096 Sergeant-Major Ahri.

1st Battalion Northern Nigeria Regiment.

No. 962 Private Musa Katsena when himself severely wounded carried Sergeant Hayes out of action on 13th May.

Only 50 men of this Battalion took part in the operations.