

Officers, 288 rank and file, 1 mm. gun, 2 Maxims, E. J. Moore, Medical Officer, J. Davidson, Political Officer, with instructions to march through the Kwale country, whose inhabitants for the past 5 years had carried on incessant warfare with their neighbours to the detriment of native trading.

In July, 1903, the people of a town called Amebu had waylaid, murdered, and mutilated 2 women on their way to Ohiaraku. Certain of the chiefs had further been reported to have offered human sacrifices.

Fighting took place at Atua, but by the 26th March active opposition had been crushed. The 6 chiefs mainly responsible for the human sacrificing were surrendered. It was subsequently discovered that the sacrifices had been offered to put an end to inter-tribal warfare. The method of sacrifice was peculiarly cruel and brutal. The victims were buried up to their necks in the market places, guns were buried with them, and their spirits directed to shoot anyone recommencing the war; pots were then placed over their heads, and they were left to perish.

By the 24th April the chief towns had been visited, no further opposition being encountered, and trade was in full swing when the troops left the district.

10. Operation No. 8.—Captain and Brevet Major H. M. Trenchard, Royal Scots Fusiliers, assumed command of a force of 4 Officers, 2 British Non-Commissioned Officers, 211 rank and file, 2 Maxims; R. E. Little, Medical Officer; A. A. Whitehouse, Political Officer, assisted by H. M. Douglas, on the 6th March, 1904, its object being the pacification of a portion of the Owerri District on the right bank of the Imo River. Several engagements took place, in all of which the enemy were routed. Major Trenchard reports:—"I found night surprises in the bush were most successful, and had an excellent effect on the enemy. Also, I tried rushing the enemy directly they opened fire, with very good results."

11. Operation No. 9.—On the 10th February, 1904, the German station at Nsanakang, situated close to our frontier station at Obokum, was attacked, abandoned by the German traders, and looted by the natives. As soon as news of the rising was received, a small detachment under Lieutenant R. D. Whigham, Lancashire Fusiliers, was sent up to garrison Obokum, but unfortunately arrived too late to save the German station. As troops became available this garrison was gradually strengthened, and Captain H. H. Sproule, Indian Army, took command on the 9th of March, 1904. The insurgents having overflowed from German territory into the Protectorate, and having compelled the inhabitants of several towns in our territory to join them, attacked Obokum on the 10th and 11th, and again more vigorously on the 27th and 28th of March. Both attacks were successfully repulsed, but Captain Sproule was wounded in the first one. The force at Obokum suffered great hardship from unavoidable exposure to bad weather and frequent tornadoes. The Political Officer, Mr. Nicoll, a valuable Civil Servant, contracted blackwater fever, to which he succumbed on his way down to Calabar.

12. The unsettled condition of the country between the German boundary and Okuni during this time necessitated the patrolling of the district by a force of 6 Officers, E. Dayrell, Political Officer, D. A. Ashton, Medical Officer, W. P. Jones, Transport Officer, 1 7-pounder gun, 3 Maxims, 267 rank and file, 3 British Non-Commissioned Officers, under the command of Captain

and Brevet Major Trenchard. This force concentrated at Okuni on the 28th of April, 1904.

13. After consultation with Colonel Muller, commanding the German Cross River Expedition, the country was patrolled in a south-easterly direction from Aparabong to the boundary, the German force acting in similar manner on the other side of the line. No opposition was encountered. All towns implicated in the rising were visited and fined. I consider it greatly to the credit of Major Trenchard and the Political Officer, Mr. E. Dayrell, that all instructions were carried out successfully without the firing of a single shot.

14. This completed the operations for the season 1903-4. Most of the fighting took place in thick bush, where an invading force is at a great disadvantage. All travelling is difficult in this country, and often arduous. Europeans, in addition to the risks incidental to warfare, are liable to contract disease from exposure and over exertion in an enervating and unhealthy climate.

The beneficial effect of these expeditions is already making itself felt by a very marked increase in both the import and export trade. Districts which hitherto have been strictly closed to strangers are now regularly visited by native traders from the coast ports.

15. In addition to those already named, the following Officers specially deserve mention:—

Captain G. T. Mair, Royal Field Artillery, Lieutenant W. V. Hume, South Lancashire Regiment, Lieutenant A. Moore, D.S.O., Royal Dublin Fusiliers, Lieutenant J. Halpenny, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

16. Colour-Sergeant D. O'Connell, Royal West Kent Regiment, Sergeant-Major A. E. Klee, Royal Artillery, and Colour-Sergeant H. Pritchard, 3rd Coldstream Guards, Christopher Jumbo, Interpreter, and Native Non-Commissioned Officers Battery Sergeant, Major Bell, No. 1961, Artillery, Southern Nigerian Regiment, Ilesho Ondo, No. 729, Company Sergeant-Major, "H" Company, Mamadu, No. 715, Sergeant "D" Company, and Olowi Giwa, Sergeant-Major, also deserve recognition.

17. All the Commanding Officers did well and carried their work to a successful conclusion. Colonel Montanaro's great experience of bush fighting in this country greatly assisted him in the difficult work he had to perform in the expeditions where he was personally in command.

Captain Hogg commanded three different columns, and was continuously in the field for four months. On several occasions his force met with severe opposition. His reports are carefully compiled and full of useful information.

Major Mackenzie commanded two separate expeditions, meeting with considerable resistance in the Mkpani country. Major Trenchard carried out the two operations confided to him thoroughly and expeditiously.

The services of these officers deserve special consideration.

18. I have the honour to advise the grant of the African General Service Medal with clasp "Southern Nigeria, 1903-04" to the Officers, including Political and Medical Officers, and men of all ranks employed in the above operations.

19. The usual returns of ammunition expended and casualties are enclosed.

I have, &c.,

W. EGERTON,

High Commissioner, Southern Nigeria.

The Right Honourable

Alfred Lyttelton, K.C., M.P.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.