

various towns, and to destroy the Ozozo Juju. Resistance was only encountered at Alako, where the column was attacked by considerable numbers of the natives, and 4 soldiers severely wounded. This phase of the operations lasted up to 2nd of February, when 1,100 guns had been surrendered.

Captain Carleton specially brings to notice the services of Lieutenant H. C. Fox, Royal Scots Fusiliers and of Native Sergeant - Major Abubakare (No. 990) who handled his men with great coolness when Colour - Sergeant Scanlan was killed. Captain Carleton handed over charge of the column to Captain Hosley on the 3rd of February. This officer met with no opposition in the remainder of the Etchie country—collected 268 more cap guns, and then moved, on the 16th of February, to the Ogoni country which, though lying close to the coast and between Bonny and Opobo, very old trading stations, had never been traversed by Europeans. The patrolling of this country was undertaken on account of attacks on boats passing between Bonny and Opobo, and of the prevalence of human sacrifice. The column was fired on at Soo, and again at Karie. The towns here had deep and wide ditches outside their gates, crossed by single log bridges, with stockades covering loopholed houses. No further opposition was met with. 72 towns surrendered. All sacrificing Jujus were destroyed, and 2,303 cap guns and 126 sniders collected.

Lieutenant N. C. Duncan, Worcestershire Regiment, is specially mentioned for showing great zeal and ability as Staff Officer, and Native Sergeant-Major Abubakare Bazazagi (No. 990) for excellent leadership of his men.

Mr. Cheke accompanied the column as Political Officer, and is reported to have done excellent work.

It is hoped that law and order have been established in the country. Native courts are being constituted therein.

7. The Ezza Patrol under Captain E. C. Margesson, South Wales Borderers, left the Enyong Creek near Itu, on the 12th of March. It consisted of:—

- 6 European Officers,
- 2 Non-commissioned Officers,
- 1 Medical Officer,
- 190 Rank and file, and
- 1 2-95 B.L. gun.

The first objective was to visit the town of Asaga, the inhabitants of which had rescued from the police and refused to surrender 8 men accused of being implicated in the murder of 4 Aros, who had been killed and eaten in January at that place. Only slight opposition was experienced, but it was not until the 20th of March that the principal chiefs surrendered.

The column marched from Asaga to Afikpo, and then through the unknown Ezza and Acharra country to Oheki. Opposition was met with at Idembi, Abbia, Opotokum, and Ndi-Agboro.

The patrol into the Ezza country was necessitated owing to an attack upon Major Cockburn by the people of Oheki, on his proceeding there with a small party in January to collect a fine levied on the inhabitants for looting trading canoes passing up the Cross River in the spring of 1904. The country was quite unknown and was found to be thickly populated. It is very fertile, and the position of large deposits of lead ore, which had previously been reported, was discovered. The column passed through large herds of cattle and flocks of sheep and goats, and throughout the country the towns were found to be clean and well kept, and there are many excellent paths about five feet wide with properly constructed side drains.

A Government station, at which a Political Officer will reside, has been established in the midst of the country near Ezzago. Native Courts will be constituted in the usual way.

Captain Margesson brings specially to notice the services of his Staff Officer, Lieutenant C. E. Vickery, D.S.O., Royal Field Artillery; of Lieutenant (Local Captain) H. A. Kirkby, Lancashire Fusiliers; and of Colour-Sergeant W. Pritchard, who was severely wounded at Opotokum on 9th April.

8. The town of Ikot-Okobo in the Eket country having given trouble by stopping the roads and assaulting the police and Government messengers, directions were given for this town to be visited and disarmed.

A small force left Calabar on the 18th of February, under the command of Lieutenant Halfpenny, Inniskilling Fusiliers. It consisted of:—

- 2 European Officers.
- 1 European Non-commissioned Officer.
- 71 Rank and file.

The town was approached at night. Only very slight resistance was offered—one soldier only being wounded. Sixty-five cap guns were surrendered.

9. The Ekpaffia punitive patrol omitted to disarm one quarter of the town of Obelli. The chief of this quarter, named Wohpara, and his people resisted the orders of the friendly head chief of the town to assist in the cleaning of the roads in the locality and fired upon and killed Chief Akamaka, son of the head chief, and one of his boys. Lieutenant N. C. Duncan, Worcestershire Regiment, with one section of "D" Company, Southern Nigeria Regiment, was sent to effect the arrest of Wohpara and the disarmament of his followers. After four days' search Wohpara and his people were surrounded at night, and, after a severe struggle, captured and disarmed.

10. After the withdrawal of the Onitsha Hinterland patrol from the Owerri District, the inhabitants of a small district to the east of Owerri, which had not been visited, refused to allow passage along their roads, and fired on a military escort travelling over one of them. The District Commissioner, Mr. H. M. Douglas, and a small force under Lieutenant Halfpenny, with 86 rank and file, visited the country and met with constant resistance, four soldiers being killed and three wounded before this thickly-populated district submitted. Thirty-nine separate towns were dealt with in a space about eight miles square. The locality forms part of the Owerri District, and is just to the north of the main road to Aba.

11. This completes the list of the operations of the season 1904-5. A large additional area of the Protectorate has been brought under efficient control. In every case the Government requirements were carefully explained to the chiefs and people by the Military Officer in command of the Force and by the Political Officer attached to the Expedition. The principal points being, as mentioned in previous reports, the stoppage of all inter-tribal fighting, the abolition of human sacrifice, twin murder, and of all trials by ordeal or punishment of their subjects by the chiefs, except after a public trial in the established Native Courts in the case of minor offences, and in the District Commissioner's Court or the Supreme Court in the case of serious crime, and the maintenance of the principal paths passing through the areas claimed by the various towns by their inhabitants.

12. Experience in the past has proved that, except where provision can be made for fairly frequent visits by a Political Officer, districts completely pacified gradually lapse into their