

previous condition. In every case, therefore, operations in new country have, this year, been followed by the establishment of a Government station with a resident Political Officer, and it is hoped by this means that any recrudescence of unrest may be avoided. No less than seven new stations have been thus established.

13. In conclusion, I may say, that in every case, the Officer Commanding the Southern Nigeria Regiment, Colonel Montanaro, considers that the work was well carried out, and unnecessary fighting avoided, and I entirely concur in this opinion. It must have often been performed under very great difficulty. He specially brings to notice the services rendered by Major Moorhouse, R.A., and in addition to the favourable mentions already made in this report, I recommend this officer for special consideration.

I have, &c.,

WALTER EGERTON,

High Commissioner of Southern Nigeria.

From the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Sierra Leone, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

24th August, 1905.

Despatch relating to Field Operations.

Sir,

For some years tribal warfare, instigated by a chief named Kafura, having prevailed in that portion of the Republic of Liberia adjacent to the boundary of the Sierra Leone Protectorate, and serious raids into the Protectorate having been made on several occasions, the President of the Republic, in March, 1905, assented to troops being sent from the Protectorate into the district mentioned for the purpose of enforcing order.

In accordance with this arrangement Captain (Local Major) C. E. Palmer, R.A., whose report is attached, on 25th March concentrated at Korumba, near the Liberian frontier, a force, details of which are stated in the margin.*

With this force operations were continued until June 28th, by which date all opposition was broken, Chief Kafura was a fugitive, and the people had selected as their rulers chiefs pledged to peace.

These successful results were obtained in an unexplored country, inhabited by a numerous and well-armed enemy; local supplies were insufficient, heavy rain was constant in June, and only by great skill and tact could the natives be induced to assemble with a view to selecting new rulers.

Major Palmer has reported most favourably upon the zeal, efficiency, and contempt of hardship shown by the Officers and men.

Much credit seems to me to be due to Major Palmer for having accurately organized a force adequate to the work, for the success of his operations, and for the skill by which the natives were induced by him to choose new chiefs. For these reasons I respectfully beg to urge that his name may be submitted for favourable consideration, and that the grant of the Africa General Service Medal to the Officers and men under his command may also be favourably considered.

I have, &c.,

L. PROBYN.

Special Report on the operations of the Kissi Field Force, 1905.

1. The tract of country dealt with in this report lies near the central portion of the eastern boundary of the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

2. The expedition was rendered necessary by the aggressive behaviour of certain sections of the Kissi tribes, principally at the instigation of Chief Kafura in the South, and Chief Fassalokkoh in the North.

These chiefs had for some time been encouraging their fighting men to raid into the British Protectorate, burn villages, plunder farms and carry off slaves. Those under Kafura had twice attacked the outpost at Korumba, held by a section of the West African Frontier Force soldiers, on the last occasion killing two of the latter.

3. The consent of the Liberian Government having been obtained to the despatch of an expedition, I received orders on the 7th March, from His Excellency the Governor, to organise and command a force with which so to punish the aggressors as to prevent any recurrence of the raiding.

4. The Korumba outpost, near the Liberian Border was decided on as a suitable place of concentration and also for the advanced base.

Here a force, strength and composition as per margin* was concentrated by the 25th March.

5. At 6 a.m. on 27th March I crossed the boundary into Liberia with a strength as under, having for my primary objective the town of Kenema (Chief Kafura's headquarters):—

13 Officers, West African Frontier Force.

1 Medical Officer.

1 Dispenser.

311 Rank and file.

312 Carriers.

11 Friendlies.

6. The route lay along a narrow path, much choked up with growth, running through dense bush country. All this had to be carefully scouted, as it was expected that in spite of all precautions the enemy would have had ample notice of our advance. The rate of marching was therefore very slow, not exceeding one and a half miles an hour on the average. For nine miles no sign of habitation or of the enemy was met with, this being the width of the belt of deserted land which now lies between the Protectorate and the Kissi country as a result of the constant feud between the peoples.

The sites where villages had formerly flourished were noticeable merely from the banana, orange, and kola trees which remained.

After nine miles the first signs of cultivation were met with; a party of men working in the fields gave the alarm, signal guns were fired, and with a rush the two leading companies ran on to the stockaded camp of Boandu which was found to be held by some six to eight men with trade guns. These were soon cleared out, and with a loss of one man severely wounded the stockade was penetrated, and as it was now late arrangements for the night made.

The water supply was bad, the accommodation extremely cramped for the force, a few rough shelters failed to provide sufficient roof for the officers alone, and with the enemy constantly firing all round, now far, now close, an uneasy night was spent. The bulk of the men went without their rations for lack of water. The carriers, though greatly alarmed at the constant firing, behaved very well.

28th March.—Still following the road indicated by the guides as the most direct to Kenema, the force proceeded at 6.30 a.m. up a steep and thickly wooded hill, and following a ridge at the top reached, about 2 miles on, the town of Fankissi. Some guns were fired as the column drew

* 14 Officers, W.A.F.F., 1 Medical Officer, 359 rank and file, W.A.F.F., 600 carriers.

* 14 Officers, W.A.F.F., 1 Medical Officer (Colonial), 1 nurse and dispenser, 359 rank and file, W.A.F.F., 600 carriers, 11 friendlies.