

Halting at Tomandu, I spent some time in endeavouring to tempt the chiefs lying east of the Mafessa River to come in, in order that I might explain to them the policy with regard to Kafura which they should pursue in order to secure the immunity of their country from the evils of war.

The negotiations were of a most delicate nature. The "war," as they called it, was evidently badly on their nerves, and a false step or an ambiguous expression in the mouth of a messenger sufficed to destroy the work of days devoted to gaining their confidence.

On the 19th April, however, two chiefs were at last prevailed upon to come into my camp.

I learnt that Kafura had passed through the country of one of them—Chief Mangara—and was then residing in the country of Chief Sapuyo, some twenty miles further east; that he had some following of "warriors" with him, and that he was being fed and housed by Sapuyo.

Several reasons decided me to leave him *in statu* rather than pursue him further.

Leaving Tomandu on the 20th, I marched via Tungeru and Soardu to Korumba, where I arrived on 22nd. This ended the first phase of the operations.

On 23rd April a more than usually influential deputation arrived from Chief Yigbo, and definite arrangements were at length made for him to meet me at some town on my route to the north. This was satisfactory as showing the soundness of the policy adopted with regard to this chief.

The 23rd and 24th April having been devoted to refitting, arranging convoys, etc., the force again marched out on the 25th, and marching by Tagbefu, Sandea, and Soardu, all old sites, without houses, long since abandoned owing to the disturbed state of the country during the last four years, Kadu was reached on 27th, and the accommodation there proving sufficient for the force, I decided to await the arrival of Chief Yigbo and his sub-chiefs there. They arrived on the 30th, Yigbo, 11 sub-chiefs, and some 200 followers.

I at once held a "palaver" and put matters very plainly to Yigbo.

On 1st May, leaving Kadu, I marched north by east and later north by west, in a wide bend necessitated by my desire to keep on the left bank of the River Meli, which here makes a bend to the east.

On 3rd May the column passed out of Chief Yigbo's country and entered that of the Lelis, a large tribe whose territory, by all accounts, stretches a considerable distance both to the east and north.

Leli country was left behind on the 5th as our course inclined more to the west, and the country of the northern Kissis was entered on the 6th, when a few shots outside the town of Bandadu proclaimed the fact that we were in hostile country again.

On the 7th Kundewakoro was reached and found deserted, as was Bandadu, though both towns are of great natural strength for defence.

Kundewakoro being a big town with excellent water close by, I decided to make it a base for the punitive operations against Chief Fassalokkoh. (Supra paragraph 2.)

One of two companies under Captain Le Mesurier operated from 10th to 14th. This party met with opposition of a feeble description.

From the 16th to 22nd I operated with two companies in the same direction but by different routes. On the 17th May I marched through Niadu to We through some particularly dense bush, and at the entrance to the latter town the enemy, concealed among rocks on the right of

the road and screened by dense bush growing in the crevices, got in some effective fire from the right front of the "point." Sergeant Kalfalla was killed on the spot, and Second Lieutenant R. H. Haseldine, South Lancashire Regiment, severely wounded. The town was rushed and the enemy driven out, and camp made for the day. The enemy, however, were not yet done with. Throughout the afternoon and after dark till about 8 p.m., they congregated in large numbers in the densely wooded hollows with which the town was surrounded, and parties creeping up as close as our clearing of the foreground would allow them to do unseen, fired into camp at intervals. Such tactics invariably drew a prompt volley from the men distributed along the crest of the hill, and finding that we were not to be surprised they abandoned the idea of rushing the camp, which had no doubt been brewing in their minds.

Meanwhile a party had been despatched to Kundewakoro to bring the Doctor, as it was thought Lieutenant Haseldine's wound was very serious, and both in order to avoid any chance of his being delayed en route as also to strengthen the party sufficiently to admit of energetic measures against this truculent section of Kissis, another company was detached from Kundewakoro as his escort. This party, with the Doctor, arrived at We, at 8.30 a.m., on the 18th, and this reinforcement, combined with the impression produced by a shot which killed one of the enemy's "spokesmen" on a hilltop at 750 yards range, proved too much for the boasted prowess of the "Real Kissis," as they proudly termed themselves, and they incontinently fled the country, not a man being left west of the Malu River. Most of them undoubtedly fled north into French territory, a few east by south across the Malu.

This ended the operations in Northern Kissi, and I returned to Kundewakoro on 22nd May. It was now time to revisit the Southern or Wunde country to examine into methods of repopulating the country, and to endeavour to establish a government antagonistic to Kafura.

The force left Kundewakoro on 24th May, and passing southwards into British territory, reached Loma on 27th by a series of long marches.

After some delay, occasioned by the necessity for reorganizing the transport arrangements, rice supply, &c., and shifting the base from Korumba to Loma, the latter being more central and healthier in the rains, the force again moved out eastward on 7th June.

Short marches were made in order to study the condition of the country, progress of crops, and feeling among the commoner class of people.

It at once became evident that my promises to assist them in every way in establishing a peaceful form of government and my guarantee of immunity from further punishment, so long as they adopted peaceful ways, had been accepted in good faith, and where, on our first marching through this country the only folk to be seen were warriors with guns to contest our advance, now the pleasing spectacle was presented of busy crowds of men, women, and children working in the farms, many of whom of both sexes ran up to me smiling, and, through the interpreter, expressed their greetings and gratitude for the treatment they had received since their warriors had fled or laid down their arms.

The force reached Wulade on 10th June. This town is on the left bank of the Mafessa River, which runs approximately north and south, flowing into the Moa River near Tomandu, and forms the eastern boundary of Wunde country.

By crossing this river and going to Sapuyo Kafura had consequently left his own country