

forward the names of a number of Officers and Non-commissioned Officers and soldiers whom he considers deserving of special mention for their work. I would myself desire to bring to your special notice the admirable way in which the expedition was organised and commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Hasler himself. His dispositions were such that the force was placed in the field in the very minimum of time, and its object effected with little bloodshed and practically no casualties among our own forces. The campaign was too brief to give opportunity to many other Officers to distinguish themselves in any very special way, but Captain Short, who commanded the advance guard, has in many minor skirmishes in past years always sustained a reputation for good leadership and reliability, and is, I think, especially worthy of consideration. The other Officers named by Lieutenant-Colonel Hasler have added to reputations for high military qualities which they have long possessed.

I have, &c.,

F. D. LUGARD, High Commissioner.

The Right Honourable the Secretary of  
State for the Colonies.

Zungeru, March 10th, 1906.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward my report on the operations in the Munshi country in February last.

1. On January the 2nd a telegram was received from Mr. Watts of the Niger Company, saying that the Munshis had risen, had attacked and taken the town of Abinsi, and looted and burned the Niger Company's store at this place.

Acting under your instructions I telegraphed orders to Lokoja that an advance force should be sent up the River Benue at once, consisting of 2 British Officers, 2 British Non-commissioned Officers, 100 Infantry, and a Maxim gun under Captain P. Short, 2nd N.N. Regiment.

The orders for this force were to ensure the safety of the navigation of the River Benue, to re-occupy Abinsi, and to patrol the river as far as Ibi if necessary.

This force left Lokoja on the 4th of January, and arrived at Abinsi on the 9th of January.

Lieutenant I. G. Sewell took one section of infantry, and patrolled the river as far as Ibi.

Captain Short found Abinsi deserted; he buried some 20 bodies, and saw many others drifting down the river between Abinsi and Loko.

2. On the 3rd of January orders were issued to concentrate a force at Lokoja, consisting of two companies of the 1st N.N. Regiment, each 150 strong, one company of the 2nd N.N. Regiment, 150 strong, and 50 men to make the advance force up to 150, two 2.95 Q.F. guns.

This force left Lokoja on the 21st January with 564 carriers, and proceeded up the River Benue in canoe, arriving at Abinsi on January the 29th.

3. The composition of the force at Abinsi was 28 Officers, 13 British Non-commissioned Officers, 2 Medical Officers, 2 Medical Non-commissioned Officers, 598 Infantry, with 4 Maxims, 35 rank and file Artillery, with two 2.95 Q.F. guns, 68 permanent gun carriers, and 882 hired carriers.

The force was divided into two columns:— No. 1 Column under myself, with Major P. M. Robinson as Staff Officer; No. 2 Column under

Lieutenant-Colonel C. M. Dobell, D.S.O., with Captain J. Mackenzie, V.C., as Staff Officer.

4. Arrangements had been made for the column to start at daybreak on February the 1st, but on the night of the 31st January a wire was received saying that by order of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, pending further orders, the force was to confine itself to the safeguarding of the navigation of the River Benue.

Accordingly the force remained at Abinsi, and confined itself to protecting the navigation of the River Benue, and procuring food (viz., yams and Guinea-corn) for the force, from the Munshi towns near Abinsi, all of which had been implicated in the attack upon that town.

During this time 11 tons of yams and 20 tons of Guinea-corn were brought into Abinsi, and a small quantity of the goods looted from the Niger Company store were recovered, the chief item being 146 bags of salt.

5. On February 9th I received a wire from you that the Secretary of State for the Colonies considered it most desirable that operations should be restricted to the object immediately in view, and that I was to punish those Munshis who attacked Abinsi and any who combined with them, and to endeavour to arrest ring-leaders and recover stolen property and captives. When this was accomplished the expedition was to return, surveying as much country as possible. Also if the Munshis on both banks of the river were hostile and likely to interfere with the navigation both banks were to be traversed at short distance from them.

6. On the night of February the 10th-11th the four infantry companies went out to attempt to surprise small towns within a radius of 6 miles from Abinsi. Most of these towns were found deserted, but as looted property was found in them they were all destroyed.

One company met with slight opposition and two of the enemy were killed.

On February the 13th the two columns moved out, No. 1 Column proceeding S.E. and No. 2 Column proceeding S.W. towards the Massava country.

No. 1 Column surprised the town of Marqua at mid-day and fighting took place; 18 of the enemy were killed.

Our only casualty was one man wounded.

7. From the 13th to the 23rd the column marched through the country occupied by the Yungwa, Mongobo, Gwando and Kawaraba tribes. Little resistance was offered and only a little desultory fighting took place. All the towns in which any proof of complicity in the attack on Abinsi (in the shape of looted property or Hausa captives) was found, were destroyed, and their cattle and part of their food supply confiscated.

Thirty-eight Hausa captives were released, and a good survey of all the country traversed was made by Captain H. C. L. Cock, R.A.

It was found impossible to capture any ring-leaders in the time available, as they were all hidden away in the thick bush.

8. On February the 23rd, when the column was about 25 miles from Abinsi a wire was received from you informing me of the severe fighting near Sokoto and ordering the force to return immediately, leaving a sufficient force at Abinsi to protect the Benue navigation.

The column as once countermarched, and reached Abinsi next morning, and crossing the