

had been roughly handled in the engagement of February 14th. Although wounded early in the day, he continued to lead his men with dash and gallantry.

Sergeant J. Slack, Royal Artillery.

This non-commissioned officer did excellent work with his gun in the action of March 10th. Previous to that he had done most valuable work in Sokoto Fort. He acted as Staff Officer to Major Burdon, Resident, Sokoto Province, who speaks of him in the highest terms.

Sergeant J. H. Maynard, Northumberland Fusiliers, 1st Battalion, Northern Nigeria Regiment, who did excellent work on the 10th March.

Sergeant H. Bullock, Royal Army Medical Corps, who worked untiringly in the care of the sick and wounded.

Sergeant T. Browning, 21st Lancers, Mounted Infantry, Northern Nigeria Regiment, who did excellent service on March 10th.

No. 1836, Lance-Corporal Dowdu Chicogo, No. 3739, Private Samari, "F" Company, 1st Northern Nigeria Regiment.

These men were specially noticed by Major Goodwin for the way they stuck to Captain Gallagher during the bayonet charge, and by their fire and bayonet fighting protected him from the enemy.

No. 195 Company Sergeant-Major Garuba Kukua, Mounted Infantry, Northern Nigeria Regiment; No. 1141 Company Sergeant-Major Basheru, Sokoto, Mounted Infantry, Northern Nigeria Regiment; No. 1684, Sergeant Oyan-shola, "B" Company, 1st Battalion, Northern Nigeria Regiment, all of whom, by their example and influence, performed most excellent service.

I have, &c.,

J. HASLER, Lieutenant-Colonel,

Acting Commandant, Northern Nigeria Regiment, West African Frontier Force.

His Excellency the High Commissioner,
Northern Nigeria.

Sokoto, March 11, 1906.

The Brigade Major, Zungeru,

I have to report as follows:—At about 7.30 P.M. on the 15th February, 1906, at Zungeru, I received news from His Excellency the High Commissioner of the reverse to the Mounted Infantry Company at Sokoto, and the deaths in action of Residents Hillary and Scott, and Lieutenant Blackwood. The following morning I obtained His Excellency's permission to leave Zungeru with 75 rifles, 1st Northern Nigeria Regiment, and proceed to Sokoto via Kontagora, picking up 75 rifles "B" Company, 1st Northern Nigeria Regiment, at the latter station. Orders were issued to "F" Company, 1st Northern Nigeria Regiment, on morning 16th February, and the same evening this detachment was ferried across the Kaduna and encamped on the right bank. I was myself detained by His Excellency until the arrival of Major Cockburn at Zungeru. This officer was wired to at Lokoja on the 16th to come up as fast as possible to Zungeru, bringing 100 rifles with him. This force embarked on the evening of the 16th, left Lokoja the morning of the 17th, and Major Cockburn arrived in Zungeru the evening of the 19th. I rode to Kontagora on the 20th, and found that Captain Gallagher, with the 75 rifles from Zungeru, had arrived the same afternoon.

This officer had made all preparations for leaving Kontagora the following morning.

The force, as per margin,* marched out of Kontagora on the morning of the 21st February, and arrived at Sokoto on the morning of the 1st March, covering the distance—214 miles—in 8½ days.

At Daragga, I received news from Zungeru leading me to suppose that reinforcements were urgently needed. I therefore left at Daragga all loads that could possibly be spared, Europeans' loads were cut down to 2½ per man, inclusive of rations, and proceeded as fast as possible.

Before arriving at Sokoto I heard from Major Burdon, C.M.G., Resident, Sokoto Province, that he considered the garrison sufficiently strong to resist an attack, and that he contemplated no immediate danger. The rising, he moreover informed me, was confined to the following of a fanatical Mallum, who had rebelled against us and against the Serikin Maslimin. As soon as I entered the Sokoto Province it was quite apparent that there was no rising among the native chiefs, for I found that the Serikin Maslimin had sent down the road for preparations to be made to ration my men, and at all the large towns I passed I was treated with the greatest hospitality.

On my arrival at Sokoto I found that Major Burdon, C.M.G., who had taken over command in the absence of any military officer, had taken every precaution for putting the fort in a state of defence. All Europeans were living in the fort; a regular system of outposts had been adopted, and the fort itself much strengthened. The enemy was still occupying Satiru, about 14 miles due south of Sokoto; had made no attempt to follow up his success of the 14th February, and had contented himself with raiding the villages around, murdering those of the inhabitants who refused to join him, and burning the villages. He was reported to number perhaps up to 5,000, to be badly armed, but very cunning and enterprising. He was said to be making no use of the carbines and Maxim gun captured from the Mounted Infantry.

I now felt every confidence that with my present force I should defeat the enemy with heavy loss, but as it was desirable that so dangerous a body of fanatics should be completely defeated, I decided to wait for the reinforcements which were coming up. Major Green, D.S.O., with Mounted Infantry, strength as per margin†, arrived at Sokoto on the 4th March, and Major Cockburn, strength as per margin‡, on the morning of the 8th March.

In the meantime I had spared no pains to perfect the column in the formations which I proposed adopting. On the 5th I had sent an officer's patrol to make a reconnaissance of the enemy's position, and this duty was performed by Lieutenant Fendall with great skill and enterprise. Although the harmattan was blowing with exceptional thickness, and the enemy tried to cut him off, he drew a map of Satiru and the surrounding country, which afterwards proved of the greatest assistance to me.

* 5 officers, 2 European non-commissioned officers, 153 rank and file, including 3 buglers, 1 medical officer, and 1 medical non-commissioned officer.

† Major Green, D.S.O., 7 officers, M.I., N.N.R., 4 European non-commissioned officers, and 200 rank and file, M.I., N.N.R.

‡ Major Cockburn, 6 officers, and 114 rank and file, 1st and 2nd N.N.R.