

At 2 A.M. on the 10th March, the column marched from Sokoto towards Satiru; before entering the dangerous zone a halt was called until daylight, and the column then proceeded towards Satiru.

The total strength of the force was:—

Major R. H. Goodwin in command, accompanied by

Major A. Burdon, C.M.G., Political Officer,

Major J. B. Cockburn, Staff Officer,

1 Medical Officer, 2 Medical Non-commissioned Officers,

1 Veterinary Officer, 1 Veterinary Non-commissioned Officer.

1 European Non-commissioned Officer, with 2·95" gun, 11 gunners,

8 Officers, 2 European Non-commissioned Officers, 277 Rifles, 2 Maxims, 1st and 2nd Northern Nigeria Regiment,

8 Officers, 3 European Non-commissioned Officers, 229 Rank and File, Mounted Infantry, Northern Nigeria Regiment.

Total, 21 officers, 9 European non-commissioned officers, 517 native ranks. One section of the Mounted Infantry scouted to the front, the main body consisted of the gun, infantry, and Maxims all in "alert" formation, with the rest of the Mounted Infantry in rear.

On the occasion of the reverse to "C" Company, Mounted Infantry, on the 14th of February, the enemy had attacked the Company on a perfectly open plain, and I asked for nothing better than that he should repeat these tactics now. The duty of the Mounted Infantry was, therefore, an exceedingly delicate one. If the enemy became aware of so large a body of horsemen, he might either retire into his town or attack the mounted men, in either of which cases my object of inducing him to attack the Infantry square in the open would be defeated. Lieutenant Fendall was in charge of the scouting section to the front, and this duty he performed with great skill. After locating the enemy he retired slowly before him without firing a single shot, drawing him on to the square which I had formed in the open, close to where the Mounted Infantry Company had been attacked on the 14th February.

The enemy, to my disappointment, did not come on in the dense masses I had hoped for, but in a loose straggling crowd. The first body consisted of about 100 footmen; when the leaders had got to about 150 yards range I opened with Maxim fire and section volleys. The square then advanced towards a second large body of the enemy; these also endeavoured to charge home, headed by a Mallum waving a paper over his head. In order to bring a larger volume of fire to bear, I formed forward both side faces of the square; some of the enemy then tried to outflank us on the left, and by hiding behind ant-hills and bundles of cut grass to shoot arrows into the square. I detached Sergeant Maynard with a few good shots to make a turning movement. The square then moved towards the east end of the town, which was set on fire in two places by shell fire from the gun, which also fired a few shrapnel at the enemy's personnel.

While the Mounted Infantry then moved round the west end of the town I sent "F" Company, 1st Northern Nigeria Regiment, supported by "B" Company, 1st Northern Nigeria Regiment, to clear the southern portion of the town with the bayonet. The charge was led with great gallantry by Captain Gallagher, who was himself badly

wounded by an arrow which went into the elbow joint, but continued to lead on his men, who went at the enemy with a dash which I have not seen equalled in this country.

The two companies were now rallied, and the remaining portion of the town cleared. I attribute the smallness of our casualties to the good handling of their men by the Europeans, and to the good snap shooting done by the men.

As far as the Infantry was concerned the fight was now over, but I sent orders to the Mounted Infantry to pursue a considerable body of the enemy whom I had seen retreating over a ridge to the east.

Any animals found in the town were then removed and the town burned, after which the gun and Infantry marched back to Sokoto. One camel, 46 donkeys, 15 horses, most of them very inferior, were handed over to the Resident. These animals, I understand, had mostly been captured by the Satiru people when raiding.

I do not think that the numbers of the enemy opposed exceeded 1,500 fighting men, but they certainly fought with great vigour and determination.

The Mounted Infantry returned to Sokoto from their pursuit the following morning.

Mallum Dan Makafo, the origin of all the trouble, was brought in by some country people on the 12th March. He had been shot through the leg by the Mounted Infantry at or near Dabeggi, where he, with a few fugitives, had gone to get water, and been discovered and fired upon by the pursuing Mounted Infantry.

The Mounted Infantry were most skilfully handled throughout by Major Green, D.S.O., who had no simple task to perform. He had to manoeuvre in such a way as to in no measure interfere with the fire from the Infantry square, and at the same time to be in the right place at the right time to pursue fugitives; my instructions on these points were most skilfully carried out.

Before the Infantry left Satiru, the bodies of the three white men killed on the 14th February were found. They were brought back to Sokoto and buried the following day.

I would specially call the attention of the Commandant to the conduct of the following officers, non-commissioned officers, and men:—

Captain A. E. Gallagher, 1st Northern Nigeria Regiment. This officer has been absolutely invaluable to me. It is not too much to say that on the march up from Zungeru, it was by his cheerfulness and untiring energy that the column was able to cover the ground as quickly as it did. In the action he commanded the front face of the square, and afterwards, as already reported, led the charge into the town, and continued to lead the charge after he was badly hit in the elbow joint by an arrow, presumably poisoned. This officer has only been in command of "F" Company for about one month, but so completely has he got the confidence of his men that they would follow him anywhere. His company fought splendidly.

Lieutenant P. W. Fendall, Mounted Infantry, Northern Nigeria Regiment. This officer, both on the occasion of his making a reconnaissance of Satiru on the 5th-6th March, and of his scouting and drawing the enemy on to attack us on the 10th March, showed great enterprise, skill, and judgment.

Sergeant Slack, Royal Artillery, Northern Nigeria Regiment. This non-commissioned officer handled his gun exceedingly well on the 10th, and