

de Wiart, 4th Dragoon Guards, was severely wounded. Other officers present attempted to batter down the door, and the men fired on the dervishes inside the fort through the loopholes. But the place was too strong and the action had to be broken off. The attack was renewed four days later, and with the assistance of an old seven-pounder gun brought up hurriedly from Burao the position was then successfully carried. The dervishes were dislodged from the forts more by the moral effect of the shelling than by any material damage done, and fleeing down the hillsides to the caves they came under heavy Maxim fire. Unfortunately, owing to lack of time and the absence of explosives, it was impossible to destroy the forts completely, and subsequently the dervishes returned.

5. Further military operations were thus necessitated, and it was hoped to clear up the situation this time once and for all. The General Officer Commanding at Aden placed at my disposal a small detachment of the 23rd Pioneers, and a column, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Cubitt, consisting of 15 officers, 570 rank and file (Indians and Somalis), six machine guns, and two seven-pounders, left Burao on the 1st February. I myself accompanied the column, and was present during the ensuing fighting. Speaking from personal observation, therefore, I can say that the whole undertaking was admirably planned and admirably executed. The forts on this occasion were completely demolished by guncotton, and the dervishes were driven out, leaving 32 dead in the caves alone. From beginning to end there was no hitch of any sort, and it was due to capable handling by the Commanding Officer and his staff, and excellent leading by the company commanders, that the casualty list was kept as low as it was. The behaviour also of the rank and file—Pioneers, Indian contingent, and Somali Camel Constabulary—left nothing to be desired, and great credit is due to all, officers and men alike. The fighting on the 4th February lasted for over five hours. The position in the ravine occupied by the dervishes was an extremely formidable one, and from the caves and inner fort they offered a desperate resistance, though not present in any great numerical strength. It is proved beyond dispute that the dervish of to-day is still a first-class fighter, and even when cornered he remains fanatically defiant to the end. During the two periods our casualties amounted to one British officer killed and five wounded (two severely and three slightly); four native rank and file killed and 25 wounded; and four tribal auxiliaries killed and ten wounded. It is impossible accurately to estimate the dervish losses, but they certainly had over 70 in killed alone. The main value of the operations, however, lies in the moral effect.

6. By the destruction of his forts at Shimber Berris and the routing of his followers the Mullah has undoubtedly sustained a severe blow and his prestige is badly damaged. It is clear, moreover, that this success will be of inestimable value to a young corps, imbuing our Somali troops with confidence in themselves and in their officers; while the moral effect produced on the minds of the friendlies is, of course, excellent. I consider the operations under review, therefore, not only extremely successful in themselves, but very important in their general bearings on the country, and I

desire to bring to your personal notice, for some special mark of recognition, the good services of Colonel Cubitt. I also desire to put forward, for military reward, the names of the following officers, native officers, non-commissioned officers, and men:—

Captain A. Carton de Wiart, 4th Dragoon Guards, for gallantry in charging a fort on the 19th November, though severely wounded.

Major A. S. Lawrence, 1st County of London Yeomanry, displayed great coolness and courage on the same occasion, and was wounded.

Captain H. C. Dobbs, 124th Duchess of Connaught's Own Baluchistan Infantry, brought a gun into action on the 23rd November within sixty yards of a fort, under a hot fire, and conducted a flank attack with success. During the past few years this officer has commanded the Indian contingent in Somaliland with marked ability.

No. 4392 Naik Sher Singh, 23rd Sikh Pioneers, for bravery on the 4th February. In placing a charge of guncotton against the door of a fort, under a hot fire from inside, he was knocked over and stunned; but, collecting himself, he returned and duly laid the charge.

No. 4584 Havildar Teja Singh, 23rd Sikh Pioneers, followed Sher Singh, placed his charge coolly, arranged fuses correctly, and fired the charge, also under fire.

Jemadar Feroze Khan, Indian contingent^o and 56th Punjabi Rifles, displayed great activity and driving power in marching his column from Burao to Little Bohotleh, and a high degree of military knowledge both in the measures taken for the security of his column and in the handling of a platoon during the attack on the forts on the 23rd November.

293 Naik (local Havildar) Shan Khan, Indian contingent and 76th Punjabis, was in charge of the gun that came into action on the 23rd November within sixty yards of a fort under a hot fire. He also distinguished himself after Dul Madoba in August, 1913.

329 Lance-Corporal Gudali Elmi, Somaliland Camel Corps, was wounded in the first charge on the 19th November, but gallantly took part in all subsequent charges until compelled to desist from loss of blood.

196 Private Handulla Ismail, Somaliland Camel Corps, displayed great personal courage. He led two charges against the door of the fort on the 19th November, and was wounded in the final attack.

The following officers, non-commissioned officers and men also distinguished themselves, and are deserving of mention:—

Captain W. A. H. Bird, 23rd Sikh Pioneers, displayed great skill in the demolition of the forts, on one occasion under a hot fire at close range.

Captain H. W. Symons, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (killed), made a gallant attempt to rush the door of the fort in the charge of the 19th November.

Lieutenant C. A. L. Howard, 32nd Lancers, displayed considerable courage in throwing hand grenades into caves under fire, and was wounded in doing so.

Brevet Major G. H. Summers, 26th King George's Own Light Cavalry, as Staff Officer and Intelligence Officer, provided timely and most accurate information, and was indefatigable in the performance of his duties.

Captain H. L. Ismay, 21st Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry, made the staff arrange-