

Great Britain and the Allies, and that the steady and uninterrupted administration of the country was tending to obliterate the symptoms of unrest which in the early days of the war the propaganda of the enemy and the uncertain course of operations had been inclined to excite.

With regard to events within the Sudan, the narrative of operations in Darfur was continued by my despatch to Your Excellency, dated 5th April, 1917, from the occupation of El Fasher down to the death of Ali Dinar at Guiba on 6th November, 1916.* This event brought to a conclusion organised resistance in Darfur, but it still left to be performed the task of putting down local disturbances, reducing the population to order, and, more especially, of protecting Darfur against raids from the followers of Sayed Ahmed El Senussi in the North.

The establishment of an administration was taken in hand at once, and, though it was a severe strain on the depleted personnel of the Sudan Government, a working arrangement was rapidly set in force which maintained peace and localised any trouble there might remain from the revolt of Ali Dinar. This trouble consisted partly in the presence of armed bodies of escaped slaves who were roving the countryside and marauding. They were divided into two main bands, under two former adherents of Ali Dinar, Abdel Mukerram and Angabu. Both bands took refuge in the south-west of Darfur, where, as the country was little known and the majority of the forces at the disposal of the Government were urgently needed elsewhere, protracted pursuit was impracticable. Abdel Mukerram ultimately passed south across the Bahr-el-Arab and surrendered to the Government post at Kafia Kingi, where the band was disarmed and its members settled in a suitable place.

Angabu, on refusing to surrender to the officer commanding Dibbis Post (S.W. corner of Jebel Marra), was declared an outlaw in January, 1917, and fled southwards. In March he had moved into French territory with about 100 followers and 80 rifles, where he is now living peaceably, most of his followers having deserted him and returned to Fasher.

The establishment of posts at Nyala and Zalingei in February, 1917, served to keep the peace in the disturbed area.

The raids of Senussi sympathisers from the North were a more serious menace, but provided an opportunity for the Sudan Government to co-operate with the French in Wadai. These raids were connected especially with Mohammed Erbeimi, the head of the Teika section of the Guraan. The Guraan live chiefly in French territory, and subsist almost entirely by raiding. They acknowledged a vague sovereignty to the Senussi and to Ali Dinar, but were not actually under any definite control. In 1916 they raided into Darfur, under the leadership of Mohammed Erbeimi, and obtained some 500 camels from the Um Gellul section of the Mahamid tribe, north of Abiad, and another 500 from adjacent tribesmen. The French troops in Ennedi were already operating against them, and the pursuit of the raiders of Darfur was the first step in active co-operation with the French. To this end a force, consisting of six British

officers, 250 rifles, Camel Corps, four Maxims, under the command of Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) T. B. Vandeleur, D.S.O. (Royal Irish Regiment), proceeded to Furawia in January, 1917. Mr. E. G. Sarsfeld Hall (Sudan Civil Service) accompanied the force as Political Officer. This force failed to get into direct communication with the French force, which had already retired northwards. However, our own Arab friendlies, who were on the watch for Guraan incursions into the Western Sudan, had got into touch with Erbeimi's tribesmen at various points and driven them back. Erbeimi, after two years of varying fortunes, during which he was continually harassed by the French, finally surrendered himself to the Sudan Government post at Furawia in December, 1918. His suppression should go far to maintain security and prevent raiding on the northern and north-western border of Darfur.

In January, 1918, the refusal of the Beni Holba tribe, in southern Darfur, to obey Government orders compelled the despatch of a small patrol into their country, under the command of Captain H. F. C. Hobbs (West Yorkshire Regiment), accompanied by Mr. J. A. Gillan (Sudan Civil Service) as Political Officer. The patrol returned in February, having secured its objectives.

In May, 1918, some unrest was noticeable in Dar Masalit, and gave further opportunity for co-operation between the French and Sudan Governments. It appeared that Bedowi, the brother of Mohammed Bahr el Din, the Sultan (commonly called Endoka), encouraged by Abu Shillukh, his chief officer, proposed to attack simultaneously the French and Sudan posts, which by mutual agreement had been placed at Adre and Kereinik, on the Wadai and Sudan borders of Dar Masalit respectively. News of the threatened movement was received in time and reinforcements were sent. This display of force deterred any action by the natives, and Endoka was prevailed upon to hand over Abu Shillukh to our post at Kereinik, whence he was sent to El Fasher, whilst Bedowi was despatched on a journey to Mecca for the pilgrimage, from which he returned in December, 1918. It is hoped that the opportunities he has had of seeing the world, and more especially the resources of the Government, will have impressed him sufficiently to deter him or his brother from further intrigues.

Facilities for co-operation with the French have been greatly improved in this area by the establishment of wireless telegraphy at Kereinik, thus connecting Abesha and Fasher. Also a system of runners recently instituted to carry mails should not only increase security, but improve commercial relations between Wadai and the Sudan.

The new province is now rapidly settling down, as the administration extends and increases its hold over the people.

I consider the conquest of Darfur to have had most important results on opinion in this country. Any feeling of lack of confidence that there may have been in certain quarters as to our capacity to hold and rule the country while the Empire was engaged in a death-struggle in Europe, disappeared entirely when the news of the destruction of Ali Dinar's forces was received.

In other parts of the Sudan the chief military preoccupation of the Government has mainly been confined to three areas. The unrest

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