

Medical Department.—One British non-commissioned officer.

160 rounds 2.95" gun ammunition, 300 rounds per rifle small-arm ammunition, 380 carriers.

Captain H. C. B. Phillips, D.S.O., Resident, Kano Province, and Captain B. A. Rice, Assistant Resident, Political Department.

3. Supplies had been collected in the Kano Province along the route Gesawa-Debbi-Ringin-Mejia Road under arrangements made by the Resident, but owing to the scarcity of water on the latter part of the road, particularly after entering Hadeija territory, I thought it better to diverge at Ringin and pass by a road which ran by Ghunka and Mega and Adiyawa. This enabled me to draw supplies before entering Hadeija territory at Mega, a large prosperous town, and use the river water from Adiyawa to Hadeija in approaching the latter place. To minimise the difficulties in feeding and watering the force, the bulk of the Mounted Infantry, till reaching Mega, preceded the rest of the force one day in advance. Though moving through an ostensibly friendly country, military precautions had to be observed, as it was possible that, aided and abetted by the Hadeija chiefs, a treacherous attack might at any time be sustained. On the 22nd, Adiyawa, the first considerable Hadeija village was reached. The inhabitants had been summoned by the Emir of Hadeija to send their fighting men in, but had disregarded his orders. Here information was gathered that other towns and villages had, however, sent in their fighting men, and orders issued by the Emir for all traders, non-combatants, and women to quit Hadeija. Everything, therefore, seemed to point to intended resistance. The distance from Adiyawa to Hadeija is about 14 miles. As it was thought probable that an attack would be made on the expeditionary force en route from Adiyawa to Hadeija, and as the heat was very great in the daytime, I decided to move, on the morning of the 22nd, only as far as a village on the river some five miles from Hadeija, and camp there for the heat of the day and night. The baggage could have, on the following day, been left here under a guard, and the combatant portion moved to join hands with the Hadeija Garrison in the event of the Hadeija chiefs showing signs of engaging us outside their walls. However, on reaching this village I was joined by a half company Mounted Infantry of the garrison under Captain E. B. Macnaghten who, following instructions by me, had scouted the issues of the town and reported all quiet. I therefore continued my journey to the fort that evening, and arrived about 5 P.M. without molestation, joining hands there with the garrison, which brought up the strength of my force to:—

22 officers.

1 medical officer.

9 British non-commissioned officers.

Artillery.—33 men and two 2.95" quick-firing guns.

Mounted Infantry.—186 rank and file and one Maxim.

Infantry.—468 rank and file and two Maxims.

4. On arrival, after sifting the local information, I consulted with the Resident, Captain Phillips, as to the best way of carrying out your Excellency's instructions. The conditions to be submitted to the Emir among others included the surrender of certain of his most powerful chiefs. It seemed certain to both Captain Phillips and myself that if a night was allowed to elapse between the submission of the conditions and any measures we might take to enforce them, these men would escape, but we also came to the conclusion that

your instructions to the Resident demanded that a period approaching 24 hours should be given for their consideration, should this be required.

It was advisable that if the main wall was defended, it should be attacked just before daylight, it being a very formidable obstacle, and unbreachable by any guns I had. Escalade was the only way of surmounting it, and this, in the daytime, would have entailed heavy loss, and might possibly have failed. It was decided, therefore, to send in the ultimatum very early on the morning of the 24th, at the same time observing all the gates with the mounted troops, and stopping entry and issue at the same time. The Emir was informed of this, and further, that if he sent his answer at once it would be understood he did not require any period for consideration, and we should act accordingly. Should his answer be received at once, and hostilities be necessary, I had decided to demonstrate in the evening with a view to drawing the enemy beyond his walls to fight in the open, or failing, to build thorn zarebas strengthened with wire round the outsides of the south gates, watching them with mounted troops during the night, and carrying out the assault just before daylight.

Before daylight, Major Green and the Mounted Infantry moved out to watch the gates. Lieutenant-Colonel Dobell, with Lieutenants Savile and H. H. Shott, were sent by me with the Mounted Infantry to make a special reconnaissance of the wall on the northern side, including the Mashena gate, with a view to selecting a place to escalate. I intended to make two false attacks against the eastern gate and between that and the Mashena gate with the main body while Lieutenant-Colonel Dobell and 150 rank and file effected the escalade at a point just west of the Mashena gate. It was known that the outside guarding wall to the eastern gate could be breached for a breadth of about six feet, and then fire brought to bear on the door of the gate, and this I hoped to do when the defenders had been taken in reverse by Lieutenant-Colonel Dobell's party. The party effected their reconnaissance without difficulty, as the wall on this side was found unoccupied.

5. The troops stood to arms at daylight, and at 7.45 A.M. the Resident informed me that he had received an answer from the Emir. He, the Emir, had struck the messenger, and told him to tell the Resident if he wanted to arrest anyone he had better come and do it. As the eastern gate was reported unoccupied, I decided that the only thing to do was to move at once, and I sent Lieutenant A. A. C. FitzClarence and one Company, 1st Northern Nigeria Regiment, to occupy the gate at once. This was effected without opposition, and I was enabled to deploy my force inside the wall.

I attach a rough sketch of the city.* It will be noted that there is an inner wall and ditch, and, though this is in a ruined condition, it still offers considerable cover to a defending force, and generally good cover from view. Inside this, and extending beyond, as shown, are the buildings of the town, which consist of substantial mud houses enclosed in compounds, with mud walls varying from two to four feet thick, and five to eight feet high. Narrow streets radiate towards the Emir's house enclosure, which stands in the centre close to an open space as shown. The enclosure to the Emir's dwelling houses is a substantially built wall some 20 feet high, about eight feet thick at bottom, and two feet at top.

* Not sent.