

It has one entrance from the open square of the town. This is the usual mud gateway passage about eight feet wide. Inside is a succession of court yards and narrow passages.

Between the inner and outer walls of the town, except where houses of light construction prolong to the gates as shown, the ground is open, opposite the eastern gate about 400 to 500 yards across.

From where we were drawn up, inside the outer wall, we could just see the heads of the enemy's mounted men moving about behind the ruined wall apparently ready for action. I was not satisfied myself that they really meant to oppose us, so I sent the Resident's interpreter up to the entrance (a fairly broad open street) to warn the people if they laid down their arms and came out they had nothing to fear. I sent him a second time, and again a third time. This latter time he was so frightened by their attitude that to hurry them I ordered a shell to be fired at the Emir's house. I had just ordered Lieutenant Shott to accompany the interpreter to give them a fourth warning, when suddenly a body of the enemy's mounted spearmen galloped over the rise "H," which forms the entrance to the main street, full at our line.

I ordered Maxim and volley firing, and the leading men were, in a few seconds, quite swept away, those behind retiring behind cover. Undeterred, however, they re-formed, and came on again with the same result.

I thought they would now give in, and waited 20 minutes to give them time. I was still reluctant to enter the town, as I felt sure it would mean many casualties and destruction of property, so, as an inducement to give in, I ordered the two guns to open on the Emir's enclosure, which stood well above the rest of the town. The result was not very satisfactory, but eventually the tower of his house was set on fire. I sent mounted patrols round the outskirts to either flank to reconnoitre, and warn any disposed to give in to come out by the flanks so as not to mask my fire. After a little time, as the issues of the streets and compounds were still reported held, and shots and arrows were fired at any who approached the inner wall, I at length decided to enter the town.

I sent Lieutenant C. M. Leatham and one Company, 1st Northern Nigeria Regiment, to the right to advance up the main street and approaches from the north-east, and Lieutenant-Colonel Dobell with two Companies, 2nd Northern Nigeria Regiment, direct from the east and adjoining streets in the same direction.

The compounds and streets were stubbornly held, the mounted men charging down them on our men repeatedly, while slugs and arrows were fired from the doors and walls on the street sides. After about 1½ hours' fighting, Lieutenant-Colonel Dobell reached the vicinity of the Emir's enclosure with Captain R. L. Beasley and Lieutenant C. S. Burnett, and parts of the two Companies, 2nd Northern Nigeria Regiment, the remainder being scattered about on his right under Captain P. H. Short and Lieutenant Shott. Here the resistance was very stubborn, and after some delay he sent back to me for guns to breach the wall and reinforcements, as the men had got much scattered in the streets. I pushed these up at once, but before they could reach him, he, with the assistance of Captain Beasley and Lieutenant Burnett, had collected a sufficient force and rushed the entrance, killing and capturing most of the defenders. In the meantime large numbers of the poorer inhabitants, having laid down their arms, came pouring out by the flanks, and were collected behind the

reserve near the eastern gate. I estimated these at between 3,000 and 4,000.

As soon as the Emir's enclosure was occupied, about 1 P.M., I withdrew troops, sending strong mounted patrols to clear out all stragglers. Guards were placed on the gates, and the unarmed inhabitants, with the exception of the ringleaders, were permitted to return to their homes. I am glad to say only a few outlying compounds of the town were burnt. Officers and British non-commissioned officers deserve much credit for the control they kept over their men under very trying circumstances. Street fighting is always demoralising; and the native soldier considers loot the natural sequence of victory. The heat was intense, the thermometer in the fort registering 115° in the shade, and most of the Europeans were, at the close, completely exhausted. The fighting was chiefly carried on by the chiefs and their following, all mounted men, armed with sword, spears, bows and arrows. Many wore shirts of chain mail of extraordinarily strong manufacture, probably from Morocco.

The chiefs seemed to have made up their minds to fight to a finish. The Emir and his son were shot charging boldly at a few yards' range. The poorer inhabitants took but little part in the fighting, except during the earlier stages, and as far as I could ascertain there were few casualties amongst them. It is difficult to account for the obstinate and senseless bravery of the chiefs. I think that at the first this was due to their never having faced magazine rifle fire, and from their having had for several generations an unbeaten record as regards their neighbours. Some were undoubtedly frenzied with intoxicating drinks and drugs.

7. Though in regard to weapons the combat was unequal, the conditions gave many opportunities for good leading and adventurous work, and all did well. The intense heat during the whole time since our departure from Kano and the bad quality of the water were much felt by the Europeans, and added much to the hardships of the operations. It is difficult to particularise where all did well, but the following deserve special mention:—

Staff.—Captain H. Forde Searight, Staff Officer; Lieutenant and Veterinary Surgeon H. C. Welch, Transport Officer; Captain and Quartermaster E. C. Hides, Provost Marshal and Supply Officer.

Artillery.—Sergeant-Major Dan Yaro.
Mounted Infantry.—Major A. D. Green, D.S.O., Captain E. B. Macnaghten, Farrier-Sergeant W. Vaudrey, No. 658 Company Sergeant-Major Dandara.

Infantry.—Captain and Brevet Major (local Lieutenant-Colonel) C. M. Dobell, D.S.O., 1st Northern Nigeria Regiment, Commanding Infantry; Lieutenant H. H. Shott, Lieutenant C. S. Burnett, Colour-Sergeant W. McLeod, No. 2550 Private Esu, No. 3244 Private Bagirimi, 2nd Northern Nigeria Regiment.

Medical.—Staff-Sergeant W. Woodell.

8. Schedules are attached showing casualties and ammunition expended.

9. After the action I collected all horses which had been captured, and these were sold by auction, and the proceeds credited to Government. Schedule is attached showing details and disposal. Many of the horses were wounded, which accounts for their low prices.

10. No supplies were taken from the town, and those collected en route were met by the ration vote.