

On the 12th instant, it being found impossible to bridge the creek at Ologbo owing to swamps on both banks, the native troops were transported to Ologbo, a distance of 2 miles, by launch and surf-boats. A landing under Maxim fire from launch being effected, the village was eventually taken. During this operation, Captain L. C. Koe, of Niger Protectorate force, was severely wounded in arm, and three native troops slightly. With Admiral Rawson I visited Ologbo, returning for night to Ciri.

On the 13th instant, as a large force was reported collecting in Sapoba direction, reinforcements were made for Jamieson River column, and the 1st division of main column with Head-Quarters Staff crossed from Ciri to Ologbo. There was an alarm in the camp this night which turned out to be of little consequence.

On the 14th instant, the 2nd division of main column crossed from Ciri to Ologbo, taking the place of the native troops who had started under Colonel Hamilton at daylight to form a camp at some cross roads 5 miles distant. The inclosed report of Colonel Hamilton gives details of this operation, during which a Company Sergeant-Major and two privates of native troops were severely wounded. During the day there were discovered in the bush around Ologbo thirty-four of the enemy's dead.

On the 15th instant the native troops moved on to the village of Ogage, 4 miles distant from cross roads, losing one private killed and one carrier, and one scout severely wounded, on the march. The 1st division with Head-Quarters Staff took up position at cross roads camp.

On the 16th instant at 2 A.M. Lieutenant Turner arrived from Ogage, and from his reports the difficulties of water supply in getting up the entire column were fully appreciated. It was therefore decided that the 2nd division should only move up as far as the cross roads camp. The 1st division with Head-Quarters Staff moved up and joined native troops at Ogage, finding on arrival that a scout attached to reconnoitring party had just been killed.

From Ogage camp, the native troops, Head-Quarters Staff, and 1st division moved on to Awoko, a distance of 7 miles, on the 17th instant. On the march three camps of the enemy and one village were taken, a running fight being kept up the entire journey. One scout was wounded, and while making camp at Awoko a shot was fired into it, wounding one seaman slightly and a carrier severely; the latter died next day.

The camp at Awoko was left at daylight to make the journey of 8 miles to Benin city—the marching distance from Ologbo to the city being estimated at 24 miles.

During the entire day, the column was in contact with the enemy, and casualties were continually occurring. About 1½ miles from the city, two fresh human sacrifices were met with in the path, the unfortunate beings having had their arms tied behind their backs and been gagged with pieces of stick. They had then been cut from the chest down and across the stomach and their entrails were hanging out. This no doubt was Ju Ju sacrifice to prevent the white man entering the town. About 1 mile from main road to town a stockade and rifle pit were met with, the former being destroyed with gun-cotton and out of the latter the enemy were quickly driven. Three small guns were found in the stockade. A short distance further on an open space was reached, and from this a fire from rocket-tube and 7-prs.

was opened on the city. This was subsequently found to have been well directed, for the rockets and effects of shell were found in city. A quick advance was then made, but heavy fire encountered just before the bush path debouched into broad main road leading to city. It took some little time to dislodge the enemy, which being effected, the column deployed into a broad road with the city about 1,000 yards distance. Up to this the advance was in skirmishing order under continuous fire from bush on right flank.

The final effort of the enemy was the discharge of two cannon from large open space in front of what were afterwards found to be some of the King's sacrificial Ju Ju compounds. The troops with a cheer charged the last 200 yards into the city, which was actually taken at about 2 o'clock. The men were much exhausted, the day having been exceptionally hot as several subsequent ones were, and water supply short.

The entire casualties of the expedition, as at present reported, are nine killed and forty-two wounded, made up as follows:—

*Killed.*

Lieutenant-Commander Pritchard.  
Naval Surgeon Fyfe.  
1 chief petty officer.  
1 seaman.  
2 marines.  
1 sergeant, Protectorate force.  
1 scout.  
1 carrier.

*Severely Wounded.*

Captain Byrne, R.M.L.I.  
" L. C. Koe, Protectorate force.  
1 naval warrant officer.  
1 " petty officer.  
4 marines.  
3 seamen.  
9 Protectorate force (N.C.O.'s and privates).  
8 carriers.  
3 scouts.  
1 interpreter.

*Slightly Wounded.*

Captain O'Callaghan, Her Majesty's ship "Philomel."  
3 marines.  
4 seamen.  
2 Protectorate force.

There may be further slight casualties from the Gwato and Jamieson River columns of which I have no knowledge.

The foregoing does not include deaths from sunstroke and exhaustion.

The individual particulars of casualties among Imperial troops I have not given, as they are supplied by Rear-Admiral Rawson to the Admiralty and I have not the complete details.

The city presented the most appalling sight, particularly around the King's quarters, from which four large main roads lead to the compounds of the bigger Chiefs, the city being very scattered.

Sacrificial trees in the open spaces still held the corpses of the latest victims—seven in all were counted—and on every path a freshly-sacrificed corpse was found lying, apparently placed there to prevent pursuit. One large open space, 200 to 300 yards in length was strewn with human bones and bodies in all stages of decomposition.

Within the walls the sight was, if possible, more terrible. Seven large sacrifice compounds were found enclosed by walls 14 to 16 feet high, each 2 to 3 acres in extent; against the end wall in each, under a roof, was raised a dais with an