

At 8.30 the Ilorin forces appeared in strength immediately in front. Square was at once formed and we were immediately surrounded on all sides by the Ilorin forces, estimated at from 8,000 to 10,000, of which 800 at least were mounted troops.

Attempts were made to induce the Ilorins to withdraw and allow the Expedition to proceed peaceably, but without success, and their inimical intentions no longer being in doubt, permission was received from the Governor to open fire. Maxims and Companies opened fire with destructive effect, the enemy having approached in masses to within 150 yards, smaller parties to within 50 yards. They fell back almost at once and the square was advanced until the enemy again closed in, when it was halted and fire opened upon them. The 7-pounder came into action upon the enemy to front, whose main body was within 600 yards. Advanced again until at 9.45 a.m. we were established on a commanding position 200 yards east of the River Oyo. Opened fire upon enemy now concentrating on the river, and by 11 a.m. had cleared river. At 11.20 two companies under Major Cunningham, D.S.O., were sent across to cover establishment of camp on River Oyo. He cleared the front for a mile, the flanking and rear parties of the enemy retiring at the same time. By noon the action was over, except for occasional long range shots by the enemy's sharpshooters, and salvos from muzzle-loading guns which they brought into action on the ridge one mile to west of the river.

16th February.—The River Oyo was crossed in daylight, and square formed beyond it. Carriers in centre; guns mounted ready for action. Advanced steadily up slope of ridge, towards Ilorin, at 6.40 a.m. at rate of three miles an hour, ground being open and good.

Enemy's advanced posts met at 7 a.m. retreating before us. At 7.10 a.m., came on enemy massed to front, and rapidly extending round our flanks. Halted, and opened fire with shrapnel and Maxims at 500-600 yards range. Enemy retired to village on crest of ridge. Square advanced, and gained flank of village at 7.35, when we halted, and opened fire again. Another short advance, and at 7.50 were in sight of Ilorin, one mile away. Opened fire for ten minutes and then advanced direct upon Ilorin. Halted upon banks of River Asa, at 1,200 yards range from Ilorin gates. Opened fire with shrapnel and Maxims, and drove enemy into town. At 8.40 white flags appeared on the walls, and the Governor, with escort of one company, advanced to parley. Flags turned out to have been displayed by Hausa traders. Moved at 10 a.m. to better artillery position further S.W., and bombarded the town. Ilorin being very closely built in parts, and thatched very loosely, rapidly took fire from our shells, and conflagrations of considerable extent ensued. At 3 p.m. the Governor, escorted by whole force, entered Ilorin unopposed, and took up his quarters in the Emir's palace, which had been fired by our shells.

18th February.—The Emir and his four chief Baloguns came in and tendered their submission to the Governor. Treaty of Ilorin signed in public, and British flag hoisted in front of Emir's palace.

Trouble during the day with Hausa traders, who endeavoured to loot and burn. I was finally compelled to turn out the troops to patrol the whole town, and only late in the evening succeeded in getting the Lagos Hausas under control.

19th February.—Marched out of Ilorin to

No. 26861.

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River Ariba. Column accompanied by 3,000 traders and slaves, mostly the latter, who were freed by capture of Ilorin.

20th February.—Marched to Lonwa.

21st February.—Marched to Bode-Sadu.

22nd February.—Marched to port Ilorin and embarked troops and stores for transport down river.

23rd February.—Steamed from Port Ilorin. The Governor received the submission of the Emir of Lafagi at the Muriagi crossing of the river.

Reached Lokoja, and Expedition concluded on the 25th February.

Casualties.

15th and 16th February.—British—

Europeans.—Lieutenant Carroll, Norfolk Regiment, slightly wounded by slug in mouth.

Natives.—Constabulary and Carriers, three slightly wounded.

Similar to the tactics pursued by the Foulahs at Bida, the efforts of the enemy to hit the Europeans, who were mounted, and the consequent tendency to fire over the square, accounts largely for the small results of their fire which was only really serious on the 15th February.

Enemy's Casualties.

From details supplied by the Baloguns themselves, it is certain that over 200 horsemen were killed, and losses of foot soldiers were variously estimated at from 300 to 500.

On the 16th February, 15,000 turned out to oppose us, but probably some 5,000 of these may be counted as non-combatants. Of the remainder, 600 to 800 were mounted, the foot being armed with Sniders, Remingtons, flintlocks, and spears.

Officers deserving of Special Mention.

For services during the Expedition:—

Major G. G. Cunningham, D.S.O., Sherwood Foresters.

Lieutenant C. F. S. Vandeleur, D.S.O., Scots Guards.

Lieutenant W. D. Bird, Royal West Surrey Regiment.

Privy Council Office, June 11, 1897.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

NOTICE is hereby given that, after the expiration of forty days from the date hereof, it is proposed to submit to Her Majesty in Council, in pursuance of the above-mentioned Act, the draft of an Order in Council to be intitled "The East Africa Order in Council, 1897."

And notice is hereby further given that, in accordance with the provisions of the Rules Publication Act, 1893, copies of the draft of the proposed Order in Council can be obtained by any public body, within forty days of the date of this notice, at the Privy Council Office, Whitehall.

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