

"Blonde," Mr. W. W. Hardwick, Chief Engineer
Her Majesty's ship "Blonde."

I have, &c.

F. CARDEW, Governor.

The Right Honourable J. Chamberlain, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

From Colonel Woodgate, Commanding Troops,
to His Excellency the Governor and Com-
mander-in-Chief.

Sierra Leone,

January 9, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report to Your Excel-
lency on the operations undertaken during the
past year in the suppression of rebellion in the
Protectorate of Sierra Leone:

From the commencement of the year 1898
gatherings of armed natives were reported in many
parts of the country, ostensibly to resist a hut tax,
but not confined to those districts in which it had
recently been imposed.

In the Karene District they were headed by
Bai Bureh, a petty chief, but a man of influence
and ability, and culminated on the 18th February
in his successfully resisting arrest by a small
body of the Sierra Leone Frontier Police, while
the District Commissioner, Captain Sharpe,
received warning that the insurgents would attack
his station at Karene, which was not constructed
for defence by a small party.

The force at his disposal consisted of 75
Frontier Police and 25 Armed Messengers, the
latter not highly trained. To enable him to
utilize all his men in the district it was decided
to send troops from Free Town to occupy Karene.

Accordingly Major Norris, 1st West India
Regiment, was sent with his company (92 Non-
Commissioned Officers and men) a 7-pr. gun and
a Maxim and 30 days' supply.

Leaving Free Town on the 24th he disembarked
at Robat on the Great Sarcies River on the
26th and reached Karone unopposed on the
28th February.

At Karene, learning that the natives were
openly hostile, he applied (by carrier pigeon) for
more troops (2 Companies to hold Port Lokko
and Karene, and a third for offensive operations);
and on the 3rd March, leaving 20 of his men at
Karene, marched with the remainder and 20
police to Port Lokko to secure it as a base of
operations.

He met with resistance on the road, casualties
2 Officers 8 rank and file and 12 carriers wounded.

On the evening of the 5th a second company
1st West India Regiment reached Port Lokko,
where during the day the natives had made a
desultory attack, in consequence of which a
portion of the town known as Old Port Lokko had
been partially destroyed by shell fire.

An entrenched camp was formed at the Church
Missionary Society's Station outside the town.

The continued resistance of the insurgents
under Bai Bureh, aided by neighbouring chiefs,
necessitated further reinforcements being sent
from Free Town, until by the end of April all the
available infantry of the garrison were in the
Karene District.

During the month of March operations were
mainly confined to the provisioning of Port Lokko,
Karene (25 miles distant), and two intermediate
posts, Romani and Kágbantama; and during the
marches of convoys many casualties occurred,
chiefly among the carriers, by the fire from stockades
constructed near the roadside in the dense
bush through which it passes.

The only offensive movement undertaken was

by Major Buck, 1st West India Regiment, who
with his company traversed a considerable portion
of the hostile district, and, after four days' march-
ing and fighting, reached Karene. Casualties 2
killed and 10 wounded.

From Karene he patrolled constantly, attacking
hostile bodies and destroying stockades, with the
result that the enemy soon ceased to give serious
trouble in that immediate neighbourhood. In
these operations he was materially aided by Major
Tarbet, Commanding the Frontier Police.

On the 1st April Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall,
1st West India Regiment, arrived at Port Lokko,
and took command in the district. Having
established his depôts, he organized a Flying
Column and took the offensive, destroying hostile
strongholds throughout the disturbed district,
which, owing to improved tactics, was accom-
plished with slight loss, and by the middle of May
there was but little resistance. Insurgent chiefs
were still at large and defiant, but appear to have
been deserted by their allies from other parts.

Meanwhile, in March, affairs became disturbed
in the adjoining district of Ronietta. In Kwaia
traffic had been stopped on the Rokell River.

Consequently Major Moore, the Acting District
Commissioner, proceeded there on the 3rd from
Songo Town with 40 Frontier Police. He
returned on the 7th March, having, it was
thought, suppressed the disturbances. They
broke out again, however, in April, when Captain
Fairlough, D.S.O., 4th Dublin Fusiliers, who
had taken over charge of the District, proceeded
there with 50 Frontier Police and a force of
Friendly Natives, and effectually quieted it. He
met with considerable opposition, losing 4
Friendlies killed and 6 wounded.

On the 27th April a party of 25 Frontier
Police under Captain Wallis were suddenly
attacked at Rañbia on the Small Bum River.
The insurgents were in great numbers, and having
gallantly held his own until the ammunition was
nearly exhausted, Captain Wallis withdrew by
boat during the night to Bonthe.

This attack was coincident with a general rising
throughout the Mendi District between the Ribbi
and Mano Rivers, a distance of 150 miles; em-
bracing the Imperri, Panguma, Bandajuma and
Ronietta districts. Massacres of English-speak-
ing people ensued, including seven American
missionaries, one gentleman and four ladies at
Rotofunk, one gentleman and his wife at Thíama,
and several hundreds of natives, while all store-
houses and factories in the disturbed area were
plundered and destroyed.

All communication with the District Commis-
sioners and detachments of police in the Ronietta,
Bandajuma, and Pangoma districts was cut off;
Bonthe, the sea-port of the Mendi country, was
threatened with immediate attack, and Sierra
Leone itself was thought to be in danger.

To meet this, without suspending Lieutenant-
Colonel Marshall's operations in the Karene
district, there were available a garrison battery
of 30 Europeans and 70 natives, a few details of
the 1st West India Regiment—Bandmen and
men sent in sick from Port Lokko, but again fit
for service, 150 of the newly-raised West African
Regiment, recruited mainly from the two rebel
tribes, Jimani and Mendi, the Officer for which
had just arrived with me from England, and a
few frontier police, including their last joined
recruits.

Her Majesty's ships "Fox," "Blonde," and
"Alecto" were in the harbour of Sierra Leone.

To secure Bonthe 50 of the 1st West India
Regiment and 20 police under Captain Dawkins,