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War Office, January 2, 1900.

THE following Despatches have been received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

39, *St. James's-Place, S.W.,*

SIR, *July 25, 1899.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a letter which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Willcocks, relative to the services of certain Officers subsequent to my departure from West Africa.

2. In the despatches which I had the honour to submit, covering enclosures from Lieutenant-Colonels Pilcher and FitzGerald, my remarks were chiefly confined to the operations in Borgu and the initial raising and training of the two Battalions, and I understood from you that a subsidiary report would be called for from Lieutenant-Colonel Willcocks, officiating in command, with more especial reference to the expeditions which took place at a later date, and of which I had received but meagre accounts at the date of the submission of those reports (dated March 9th, 13th, and 31st). I had, however, already heard of the gallant conduct of Lieutenant Ker, Royal Artillery, and I included his name in the despatch for that reason, and I have the honour to endorse the recommendations made by Colonel Willcocks.

3. I noticed that the published list of rewards contained no recognition of the excellent services of the Medical Department, of whose work I spoke in my despatch in the strongest terms at my command. I venture to bring to special notice the name of Doctor W. Poole, Principal Medical Officer of the Force, whose previous record of service in Nyassaland under the Foreign Office constitutes an additional claim upon Government.

I have also to specially mention the good service rendered in September and October, 1898, by Sergeant John MacKenzie, Seaforth Highlanders and West African Frontier Force.

I have, &c.,

F. D. LUGARD.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, Colonial Office, S.W.

Naval and Military Club,

SIR, *July 23, 1899.*

IN continuation of all former correspondence I have the honour to bring to your notice, as a final case, the names of the following Officers who performed most excellent service in Nigeria whilst I was officiating in command. The reason for my not doing so earlier is that with

regard to one of these Officers, I had to wait for certain correspondence which I now possess and I am therefore enabled to write this letter.

Lieutenant C. A. Ker, Royal Artillery. Of this Officer, Sir George Goldie says "he took a distinguished part in the expedition sometimes called the 'Illah,' and sometimes the 'Asaba Expedition,' but more properly the Benin Hinterland Expedition; he was present at four engagements with the enemy, one of which, 'Iseli Nipatima,' was the turning point of the expedition."

Lieutenant Ker also received the thanks of the Company in the Royal Niger Constabulary Orders.

As for this expedition, many of the Royal Niger Company's Constabulary Officers received the D.S.O. in a recent London Gazette, and none I am aware did better than Lieutenant Ker. I feel it my duty, after the very high terms in which Sir George Goldie has referred to this Officer, to bring his name to your notice. Had Lieutenant Ker been serving with the Royal Niger Company, I feel convinced he would have been included with the others, and therefore I hope you will agree with me that it is only just that his name should be brought forward.

Lieutenant R. L. McClintock, Royal Engineers. This Officer worked like a slave and stuck to his arduous duties through thick and thin for 13 months. His devotion to duty was the common theme of praise throughout the force. He took part in the expedition to Illah, the Benin Hinterland Expedition.

Lieutenant R. H. Mangles, the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. An excellent Officer. Served in Borgu, and was in charge of over 1,000 carriers for months. He is an Officer to be noted for the future.

Captain F. M. Gillespie, South Wales Borderers. Served with Major Morland in the fighting at Telo, near Illi, after Lieutenant Keating's disastrous fight. Collected most valuable information regarding the surrounding country and tribes, and was a most useful and conscientious Officer.

I am sure the above Officers not only deserve, but will be very glad to know that their services have been brought to the notice of the Colonial Office.

I have, &c.,

J. WILLCOCKS, Lieutenant-Colonel,
West Africa Field Force.

To Colonel F. D. Lugard, C.B., D.S.O.