

and five wounded. Of the carriers attached to the Force, three were wounded and several missing. The final result of these operations has been that a large tract of country has been brought under direct Government control.

I am of opinion that the services of the Officer Commanding, Brevet Major Carter, are deserving of recognition; for the operations were carried out successfully with very little loss of life, and there can be no doubt that the natives were well armed, and that there was organized opposition to the Government. I would also endorse the recommendation in the enclosed despatch with reference to Captain R. E. P. Gabbett, the Acting Adjutant during the expedition, who for a portion of it was in command of the troops, and conducted the operations to a successful issue.

3. *Benin Territories Expedition.*—These operations were undertaken in April and May last, and full report was made in my despatch, No. 78, of 27th May. They constitute the final scene of the tragedy which commenced with the massacre of seven European Officers and over 150 carriers, in January, 1897, after which operations were undertaken in February and March, 1897, which resulted in the taking of Benin city itself, and the major portion of the territories of about 4,000 square miles. The principal leader of the massacre, Chief Ologboshi, escaped on this occasion, and, gathering a large number of followers, established a war camp in a portion of the territories in and about Okemue. He was in league with Chiefs Abohun and Oviaware, who also had established war camps, being opposed to European administration. The operations were undertaken to break up the war camps, capture and bring to trial Chief Ologboshi, and bring the Chiefs Abohun and Oviaware, together with the territories, under the control of the Administration. The war camps were utterly destroyed, together with five considerable villages in league with and supplying the rebel chiefs, and the followers of the chiefs were dispersed. Chief Ologboshi was captured, brought to trial and hanged; Chief Oviaware was killed during the operations; and Chief Abohun was captured and deported from his country for a period of six months, being lately allowed to return; as he is an able and intelligent man, and willing to assist the Administration in the control of the territories.

During the operations one Officer was killed and one Officer slightly wounded; seven men of the force and five carriers were also wounded. Considering the number of the enemy and the preparations made to oppose the Government, the casualty list must be considered as particularly small, which was due to a great extent to the enemy's ammunition being bad and suffering from wet, the weather during the operations having been rainy. The operations were excessively arduous, owing to their being undertaken somewhat late in the year, when the wet season was commencing. The marching was very heavy, the main column accomplishing a distance of 243 miles in a period of three weeks, and the second column 285 miles in three weeks and two days.

I would specially mention the services as particularly deserving of recognition of Brevet Major Carter, the Royal Scots, Officer Commanding the Force, to whose able handling of the troops the success of the operations was mainly due.

I endorse the recommendations of Brevet Major Carter with regard to the following Officers:

1. Captain W. C. G. Heneker, Connaught Rangers, whose knowledge of the territories was

invaluable, which, with the energy and zeal he displayed, contributed largely to the success.

2. Captain R. E. P. Gabbett, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who after the hard work of the operations was left in charge at Okemue, and effectually drove out the scattered followers of the rebel chiefs, and effected the capture of Chiefs Ologboshi and Abohun.

I should also wish to specially mention the following Officers of the political and other branches who were attached to the Force for the carrying out of these operations:—

District Commissioner Brevet Major N. Burrows, South Wales Borderers.

Assistant Marine Officer Mr. H. G. Moore, Royal Naval Reserve.

Assistant District Commissioner Mr. L. C. Woodman.

Assistant District Commissioner Major F. R. W. Sampson, 7th Battalion King's Royal Rifles.

Local Auditor Lieutenant J. P. Smartt, 2nd Volunteer Battalion Hampshire Regiment.

Had it not been for the volunteering of these Officers, it would not have been possible to carry out the operations without co-operation or assistance from other Forces, and I should therefore wish to bring forward their names as having displayed exceptional zeal in the public service in undertaking risks which the positions they held in the public service did not require them to take.

I am, &c.,

R. MOOR,

Commissioner and Consul-General.

Enclosure in Sir R. Moor's Despatch, No. 234, of December 29, 1899.

Despatch relating to Field Operations.

Head-Quarters, Niger Coast Protectorate Force, Old Calabar, West Africa,

December 18, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to bring to your notice specially, the services of the following Officers who were engaged in the Central Division Expedition in February and March, 1899, and also in the Benin Territories Expedition in April and May, 1899.

Central Division Expedition.—Captain R. E. P. Gabbett (Royal Welsh Fusiliers), Niger Coast Protectorate Force, Acting Adjutant to the Expedition, rendered me the most valuable assistance on every occasion, and on my handing over to him the command of the expedition on February 22nd, 1899, he conducted the operations to the close in a thoroughly able and competent manner, displaying great tact and ability.

Benin Territories Expedition.—Captain W. C. G. Heneker (Connaught Rangers), Niger Coast Protectorate Force, who acted as Intelligence and Survey Officer, ably assisted me by his intimate knowledge of the country, and throughout the operations was conspicuous for his dash, energy, and tact.

Captain R. E. P. Gabbett (Royal Welsh Fusiliers), Niger Coast Protectorate Force, was specially selected to be left in command of the flying detachment in the Okemue district, on the conclusion of the Expedition, and at all times showed great zeal and ability, which eventually effected the capture of the rebel Chief Ologboshi.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES H. P. CARTER,

Brevet Major (the Royal Scots), Commandant Niger Coast Protectorate Force.

To Her Britannic Majesty's
Commissioner and Consul-General,
Old Calabar.