

that they nearly succeeded in breaking through at a point where a 7-pounder gun was temporarily out of action. Seeing it was time to force them back, he ordered Captain Monkmason to charge with his company, and simultaneously the other troops joined in; the enemy immediately fled and dispersed. The behaviour of the troops was excellent. The villages and war camps were captured just as darkness set in; many dead were found, ten lying in a heap, a thing seldom seen in this bush fighting. The column returned next day to Dampoassi unmolested. It was unfortunately impossible to follow the enemy owing to our small force and the number of wounded. Our total casualties, three officers severely, one officer and one British non-commissioned officer wounded, and also one man killed; six dangerously, six severely, and seventeen slightly wounded.

17. I was anxious to strengthen the garrison of Kumasi for many reasons, and owing to thick weather, not having been able to see their night signals for two consecutive Sundays, I decided to reinforce the garrison to a total of three hundred soldiers and ten white men, and to destroy such of the enemy's stockades as might still be held in the vicinity of the fort, after which I was free to carry on operations and clear the country south of Kumasi. Accordingly on the 4th August, Lieutenant-Colonel Burroughs, with two 75-millimetre guns, two 7-pounder guns, and seven hundred and fifty men, started for Kumasi, via Pekki. The weather was fine and the roads good (being the annual August breaks in the rains), and the column reached Kumasi on the second day, losing one carrier killed and four wounded by snipers along the road. On 6th July Burroughs sent out two columns, three hundred men each, one under command of Major Melliss, Indian Staff Corps, with West African Frontier Force only the other under Lieutenant (local Major) Cobbe, Indian Staff Corps, who had Central African Regiment and Sikhs and one company West African Regiment.

Melliss took the Bantama road, and three-quarters of a mile from Kumasi came on a stockade strongly held and which poured in a hot fire; a 75-millimetre gun opened at one hundred yards with good effect, the timbers, for a wonder, being visible; two Maxims also kept up the music; but the enemy had loopholed the stockade and would not be silenced, so after half an hour's duel Melliss with his Hausas charged with the bayonet. The enemy this time, however, did not run, but waited to try conclusions, and as the troops scrambled over the stockades a fight at close quarters took place, Melliss, Captain Merrick, R.A., and Colour-Sergeant Foster, Devon Regiment, shooting and stabbing several Ashantis.

Melliss with his usual bravery kept up the charge on and away till the war camp village and every other sign of the enemy had been passed; many of their bodies strewed the ground. Our casualties were one soldier killed; Colour-Sergeant Foster, Devon Regiment, and four soldiers, severely wounded; Major Melliss, Indian Staff Corps, and Captain Biss, 5th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, and three soldiers, slightly wounded.

The column under Major Cobbe took the Kintampo road, and soon after leaving the Kumasi clearing was fired on; continuing his advance, Cobbe came on a stockade 300 yards in length, and was fired on from his right front and left rear simultaneously. The frontal fire came from a wing of the stockade which was invisible in

the dense bush. Whilst the enemy was kept engaged in his front by the West African Regiment and gun, two companies Central African Regiment, with some Sikhs under Cobbe himself, worked round to the right. This flanking movement was most pluckily conducted, many casualties occurring, but this was partly because the advance was too slow. Bush or no bush, the final advance once actually begun is better made here without precaution than if delayed for a moment by attempting to cut a way. The fighting had lasted about one and a-half hours, when the Central African Regiment and Sikhs, by this time having gained the enemy's left rear, charged them in flank. The West African Regiment and remaining Sikhs simultaneously charged from the front and left, the whole driving the enemy pell-mell before them; the camp was destroyed and some of our arms and ammunition recovered. The enemy were pursued for some distance, leaving a good number of dead. All ranks, especially those fine soldiers the Sikhs, behaved admirably, and if it were not for this impossible forest we should soon wipe out most of the Ashantis; long pursuit is impossible, and so we have to do the same trying work over and over again.

The casualties were heavy, Major Cobbe, Indian Staff Corps, severely, and Colour-Sergeant Rose, West African Regiment, slightly wounded. Sikhs: One killed, seven severely and ten slightly wounded. Central African Regiment: One killed, ten severely and seven slightly wounded. West African Regiment: One severely, two slightly wounded. Carriers: One killed, two wounded. Total casualties: Forty-five.

18. On 7th August Lieutenant-Colonel Burroughs with five hundred men made a night attack on the enemy's stockaded camp, one and a half miles from Kumasi, on the Kumasi-Kokofu road, having ascertained by reconnaissance that afternoon that the camp was occupied in force. Night attacks are always risky and frequently unsuccessful, but on this occasion every possible precaution was taken by Burroughs; orders were thoroughly explained to officers; and, helped by a moon, everything went as was intended, with the consequence that the Ashantis, unaccustomed to games of this sort, were found asleep. A few shots were fired by their surprised picquets, one of which cost us the life of a gallant young officer, Lieutenant Greer, West India Regiment, attached to the West African Regiment. His death was the signal for the charge, which carried all before it. By the light of the moon the strange mixture of dark races, gathered from many parts of the Queen's Empire, were for the first time in our history united in the forests of West Africa to battle against her enemies. Sikhs from the distant Punjab, Askaris from Somaliland and British Central Africa, Hausas from Bornu and Lake Chad, Yorubas and Mendis from the Hinterland of the West Coast, West Indians from Jamaica and other islands, and a sprinkling of Senegalese; here they were of different races, religions, and tongues, yet implicitly trusting in the white men who led them, and whose word was law. No matter what way they went, or why, they knew it was all right so long as they obeyed; and they did. The sword and the bayonet both had their turn that night, the enemy was fairly collared and paid the penalty of rebellion, large numbers were killed, and the Ashantis will remember what a night attack means. By the light of the blazing war camp, the stockades which had taken weeks to build were destroyed in an hour by the jubilant