

cut down according to his ideas of our methods of attack. Who can but admire such splendid courage as these brave though cruel people displayed throughout the campaign? But this was to be their last effort, and they deserved a better fate. On the night of the 27th September some levies brought in the news with a rider that the Achumas would teach the white man a lesson he would not forget. At dawn on 29th September, a column of 1,200 men, under my command, left Kumassi, and halted the night at Adada, within two miles of the enemy's position. They had burnt the village, and we passed a night of great discomfort under a pelting rain.

The 30th September, 1900, was the last day on which (in the light of events as we now know them) the Ashantis should ever be able to say they fought the white man in any numbers. The fighting line consisted of 600 men, while 600 men were told off to guard the long string of carriers. At 9 A.M. the advanced scouts were fired on from the front, and left flank, and almost before any deployment could take place the enemy, who occupied a low crescent-shaped ridge, poured in a heavy fire, freely using our own .303 carbines of which they had a great number, captured near Kumassi.

As soon as sufficient troops were deployed a general advance of three companies took place with two in support and Sikhs in reserve, one company of the West African Regiment on our right under Captain St. Hill, with Lieutenant Aspinall, doing particularly good work and driving the enemy back on the village of Obassa. Major Montanaro, who commanded the advanced guard, ordered the cease fire and charge, but the Achuma tribesmen were dogged, and refused to do more than retire a few yards, where they had a second position, and reopened a fusillade all along their line, although exposed to the close fire of a Maxim excellently worked, which was doing much execution.

A second charge forced them back on the flanks, but their centre would not give way, and so, after five minutes of rapid firing, I ordered up the company of Sikhs, under Captain Godfrey, Indian Staff Corps. The Ashanti does not like the combined sound of bugles and drums sounding the charge, but the brave fellows faced it this day right well, and as the Sikhs, with their warlike Khalsa cry, dashed into them, led by Captain Godfrey, they stood their ground and fired killing some and wounding several, including the brave Major Melliss, severely, and amongst the killed a fine soldier who had earned the Order of Merit (the Indian V.C.) on the frontiers of the Punjab.

With the Sikhs went all the rest of the fighting line, a company or more from each of the corps composing the Field Force—fitting end to all their labours. The Ashantis had made their last fight in the campaign, they had been heavily beaten, and they now ran as they had never done before. Their flight was a panic, they left guns, ammunition, and everything they owned, including several thousand rounds of .303 ammunition and many barrels of powder on the field; no attempt was made to remove their belongings nor even their dead—62 bodies lay in our direct front as we moved on, and I afterwards found we had killed 150, including six chiefs, and the wounded must have numbered many more. Our casualties were Major Melliss, Indian Staff Corps, and Lieutenant Luard, Norfolk Regiment, severely wounded, and Major Willans, Army Service Corps; Captain Charrier, Munster Fusiliers; Captain Pamplin Green, 3rd Essex Regiment; and Sergeant-Major Shanley, Army Service

Corps, slightly wounded; three men killed and 28 wounded.

Next day Major Cobbe with 800 men and two guns followed up the enemy for ten miles, across the Offin River; some wounded and much baggage was found straying the roads, but no signs of the Ashantis. This was a most arduous march through bogs and swamps, and the troops had about as much to do as they could manage.

12. During October flying columns were sent in all directions from Kumassi to search for the enemy, but no signs were found of them. The town of Nkawi (where Mr. Branscombe was murdered when the rebellion first broke out) was destroyed as a punishment.

13. On 1st November a column of 700 men and one Vickers-Maxim mountain gun, under command of Major Montanaro, Royal Artillery, left for Berekum, 100 miles north-w-st of Kumassi, and this was followed next day by a supporting column of 500 men and two 7-pounder guns, under Major Browne, Leinster Regiment. On the 7th November both columns united at Bechem where a supply depôt was formed, the remaining troops moving on to Odumassi. Many chiefs and others surrendered. No resistance was offered at Odumassi, the headquarters of Kobina Cherri, a powerful chief, and Major Montanaro, with 400 men, advanced to Berekum, the first friendly town in this direction. Here also arrived the same day a small column under Captain McCorquodale, 3rd West African Frontier Force, which had marched from the sea coast by the western frontiers of the Colony. The people were delighted and surprised at seeing so large a force arriving from two different directions, and all signs of trouble rapidly subsided.

On 14th November Major Browne had sent out a party of 100 men West African Frontier Force, under Lieutenant Kingston, Middlesex Regiment, and Lieutenant De Putron, 5th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, to surprise Chief Kobina Cherri. This was very well carried out, and Kobina Cherri seized. He was a cruel murderer who had tortured to death many British subjects. I had him tried; he was found guilty, and hanged in public at Kumassi. The whole of the troops returned to Kumassi 23rd November, having covered over 200 miles under great physical difficulties, and severely punished the villages and towns which had joined in the rebellion. All ranks were much done up including those patient people, the carriers, but they knew it was to be the last effort, and I cannot speak too highly of the officers and men, who, after months of incessant toil, again showed that there was no difficulty they could not overcome.

14. On 19th November the town of Memm, in the Ahufu forest, the largest town in Ashanti, surrendered to Captain McCorquodale, with a very small force, and the chief with many others gave themselves up unconditionally.

15. The Ashantis had now had enough fighting. They had fought for eight months; for two months they were the aggressors; for two more they gained many successes, but for four months they had been hunted from south to north until they had no resting place, and now only three or four fugitive chiefs remained. These also were captured by the levies sent out by Captain Donald Stewart, C.M.G., Resident at Kumassi, and before the new year has set in I think I am correct in saying there will not be one person of any importance still in arms against us. The best memory of the campaign will ever be the cheerfulness, under all circumstances, displayed by the African