

soldier (whether from the West or East Coasts). He has earned the love and respect of his Officers, and has proved that he is worthy to take a place in the ranks Her Majesty's Army, and that there he will at least find none more loyal than himself.

16. The various departments of the Field Force have been well administered. The medical, under Dr. McDowell, Principal Medical Officer, in my opinion, has been as near perfection as was possible in such a country. He was given an absolutely free hand, and nothing that was asked for or wanted was ever refused. The supplies from England have been sent out so promptly and in such a generous spirit that it was the universal opinion that no force in the field could have been better treated.

Of the Transport Department, under the control of Major Willans, Army Service Corps, I might say the same. His energy and ability have been remarkable, and the excellent quality of the rations issued to Europeans has without doubt saved much sickness and kept us all in health. Since the relief of Kumassi everything in this Department has worked well, and the officers and non-commissioned officers deserve great praise. The care and feeding of 10,000 carriers drawn from all parts of Africa was no light task, and was admirably carried out.

The Telegraph Department has been very well managed, and the staff worked satisfactorily throughout.

17. Small-pox, the curse of West Africa, unfortunately got a bad hold of the carriers after August, and a great many died; later on a good many soldiers also died. Only one European was attacked, but he recovered. The disease began to disappear at the end of November.

18. From April to September I had little or no news from the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, but during October and November regular communication was again established.

In November I sent 300 men and a 7-pounder gun to replace the men brought down by Major Morris, when he marched to Kumassi, and with this addition the northern garrison was again sufficient for all requirements. Major Sheppard, who was acting as Commissioner and Commandant during the seven months, appears to have kept the territories in very good order, and to this is no doubt partly attributable the fact that no disturbances took place, although Ashanti emissaries were busy trying to rouse the people.

19. The total number of the force, including all who at any time served in the field, did not exceed 280 Europeans (of all ranks) and 3,500 native soldiers. Nine officers were killed, 52 officers and non-commissioned officers wounded, and seven died of disease, whilst 52 were invalided. In the native ranks 154 were killed or missing, 680 wounded, and 102 died of disease. Out of the 10,000 carriers 45 were killed or wounded, and 430 died of disease. Of the native levies 50 were killed at Bohenkra.

20. I cannot think how the relief of Kumassi and the subsequent operations could ever have been carried through if it had not been for the great help in obtaining carriers at very short notice given by His Excellency Sir Frederick Cardew, K.C.M.G., Governor of Sierra Leone, and Sir A. Hardinge, Consul-General of Zanzibar.

21. I would beg to bring to favourable notice the following officers and others who have done specially good work, and in doing so I would add that in this expedition, owing to the comparatively small number of combatant white men, the same officers have been called on over and over again

to accompany columns, and have thus been afforded extra opportunities of showing what they were made of.

Colonel J. A. Man Stuart, C.M.G., 3rd Battalion Gordon Highlanders, Base Commandant.—Has been invaluable. With him at the base, I was always sure that nothing would go wrong, and his judgment and energy did much for the success of the expedition. I desire to specially bring him to your notice.

Captain (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) H. E. J. Brake, D.S.O., Royal Artillery.—This Officer has an excellent battalion. He is most reliable, and the two columns commanded by him were well led. He is deserving of promotion. Was wounded at action of Ojesu, 31st August.

Major A. F. Montanaro, Royal Artillery.—From the day he joined the force this Officer's work has been admirable. He was in command of the Royal Artillery, and also twice in chief command of columns, both of which did very good work indeed. I strongly recommend him for promotion. He has well earned it.

Captain (temporary Major) H. R. Beddoes, Royal Dublin Fusiliers.—Severely wounded at action of Yankoma, 30th July, whilst in command of a column which completely defeated the enemy. Also commanded the rearguard at action of Kumassi, 15th July. A very good Officer whom I strongly recommend for promotion.

Captain (local Major) A. S. Cobbe, Indian Staff Corps.—Severely wounded 6th August. He is an Officer to be thoroughly trusted, and commanded in several fights, where he invariably did well. I hope he will be rewarded.

Captain (local Major) C. J. Melliss, V.C., Indian Staff Corps.—Although this Officer has been awarded the Victoria Cross for valour, his work throughout the campaign has been so valuable and conspicuous that I sincerely trust he will be noted for higher promotion on attaining the rank of Major which he is now near. He has 18 years' service, but is held back by the rules for promotion in the Indian Staff Corps.

Captain (local Major) A. F. Gordon, Gordon Highlanders.—An Officer full of energy and go. Has worked exceedingly well and behaved most gallantly at action of Ojesu, 31st August. Commanded 2nd Central Africa Regiment after Lieutenant-Colonel Brake was invalided and deserves recognition.

Captain (temporary Major) H. Bryan, Manchester Regiment, Deputy-Assistant Adjutant-General.—I hope it may be my good fortune to serve with this Officer again in the field. He is one of the very best Staff Officers I have ever known. His knowledge of his duties, his tact, his thoroughness and his gallantry mark him as certain to rise. I confidently recommend him for promotion.

Captain B. A. Wright, Manchester Regiment.—I regret that in error this Officer's name was omitted from my first despatch. He commanded the right flank attack entering Kumassi, 15th July, and on this as on subsequent occasions did conspicuously good work.

Lieutenant (local Captain) C. Godfrey, Indian Staff Corps.—A very good Officer who did well on every occasion where he was employed. Led his Sikhs in the final charge at Obassa, 30th September, and is in my opinion deserving of a reward.

Lieutenant C. E. Luard, Norfolk Regiment.—Severely wounded at action of Obassa, 30th September; lost the sight of one eye. A gallant and reliable Officer whom I recommend for a reward.