

existed in the Gambia, and an expedition became necessary to reassert it.

Owing to the narrowness of the British territory and the rapidity with which news travels, being communicated from village to village by runners, it is difficult to inflict adequate punishment upon the natives, who have only to cross into French territory to be safe from attack. It was therefore necessary that the greatest secrecy should be observed to prevent news of the impending expedition reaching the natives, and that when the troops arrived in Gambia they should move with the utmost rapidity.

3. The troops detailed for the expedition were:—

Four companies 3rd Battalion West India Regiment, with two 7-pr. R.M.L. guns from Sierra Leone, and four companies 2nd Battalion Central Africa Regiment, *en route* from Somaliland to the Gold Coast Colony, making a total of 802 men, exclusive of officers. In case of extreme necessity assistance could be obtained from H.M.S. "Forte," "Dwarf," and "Thrush," which were in the Gambia River.

4. The following plan of action was adopted:—

The transport "Dwarka," with the half-battalion 2nd Central Africa Regiment, was due to arrive at Gibraltar from Berbera (Somaliland) on or about 2nd January, and, allowing for unforeseen accidents, might be expected to reach Bathurst on 10th January. Instructions were therefore telegraphed to the Senior Naval Officer, West Coast of Africa (Captain R. C. Sparkes, Royal Navy), to despatch the half-battalion 3rd West India Regiment in time to arrive on that day, together with 500 carriers from Sierra Leone, as it was not considered advisable to excite suspicion by collecting carriers locally.

It was decided to strike the first blow at Dumbutu, as the village of Sankandi had been deserted and burnt by its inhabitants, who had moved to Nema, in French territory.

After a consultation with the Administrator the whole expedition was to proceed, without landing at Bathurst, to Tendebar, 63 miles up the river, disembark during the night or early morning, and march on Dumbutu on 11th January. It was hoped that by so doing the troops would be in Dumbutu before the news of their arrival at Bathurst could reach that place, and so permit the escape of the headmen implicated.

After occupying Dumbutu and Kwinella, the troops were to march through any districts indicated by the Administrator, and to thoroughly pacify the Colony and restore British authority.

5. Before leaving London I made arrangements with the Crown Agents for the Colonies for the despatch of rations for officers and men, and of medical stores, instruments, and dressings, by the steamer leaving Liverpool on 29th December, 1900. This was a matter of some difficulty, owing to the Christmas holidays, but it was successfully accomplished by the Crown Agents, and I left London on 29th December, travelling overland to Gibraltar, where the transport "Dwarka" arrived on 4th January.

On her passage to Bathurst the "Dwarka" called in at Dakar, Senegal, to embark Captain L. R. Arthur, H.M. Consul, who had been appointed to the staff of the expedition as Political Officer. The "Dwarka" anchored off the mouth of the Gambia River on the evening of the 9th January, where H.M.S. "Dwarf" and the mail steamer "Bornu," both from Sierra Leone, had already arrived. The latter ship had been intercepted by Captain

Sparkes at Sierra Leone, and brought the 500 carriers and a quantity of stores.

Sir George Denton, K.C.M.G., the newly-appointed Administrator of Gambia, was a passenger on this ship. H.M.S. "Dwarf" (Lieutenant Commander H. F. Shakespear, Royal Navy) brought one company 3rd Battalion West India Regiment.

6. H.M.S. "Forte," Captain Sparkes, Royal Navy, with the remaining three companies 3rd Battalion West India Regiment, from Sierra Leone, arrived before daybreak of the 10th January, and led the way into the river, the ships anchoring off Bathurst.

I had been fortunate in being able to stop Major H. Bryan, the Manchester Regiment, and Captain H. A. Thorne, the West India Regiment, on their way home from the Ashanti Expedition, and to secure their services as Chief Staff Officer and Chief Transport Officer respectively. They had arrived at Bathurst on 30th December, and had made all the necessary arrangements, with the help of Lieutenant Commander W. H. D'Oyly, Royal Navy (H.M.S. "Thrush"), for the immediate transfer of both men and stores from the "Forte" and "Bornu," which at once commenced.

I had an interview with Sir George Denton and Mr. Brandford Griffith, the Acting Administrator, and obtained the sanction of the former for the immediate move up the river; but Mr. Griffith expressed great doubts as to whether a surprise would be possible.

A weak company (47 men) of the 2nd Battalion Central Africa Regiment, with all the women and children of the regiment, was landed at Bathurst and accommodated in the barracks there.

7. The expedition started up the river at 2 p.m. and anchored at dusk off the mouth of the Vintang Creek, to await the rising of the moon. H.M.S. "Dwarf," with H.M.C.S. "Mansah Kilah," was ordered to proceed with two companies 3rd West India Regiment up the Vintang Creek, and, after landing the companies at Jaror and Sandeng, to watch the crossing at Bondali. The officer in command of these troops (Major Westmorland) was directed to occupy the towns named and to intercept any natives who might endeavour to cross the Vintang from the north.

H.M.S. "Forte" remained at the mouth of the Vintang, being unable, on account of her draught, to ascend higher up the river.

H.M.S. "Thrush" and the transport "Dwarka" resumed the journey up river at 2 a.m., the navigation of the latter ship being undertaken by Lieutenant F. Massey-Dawson, Royal Navy, of H.M.S. "Forte." The movement of so large a ship, drawing 16 feet of water, up an intricate river like the Gambia by night was attended by considerable risk, but it was of paramount importance to reach Tendebar by daylight, and the task was successfully accomplished.

8. The ships anchored off Tendebar at 4.30 a.m., and the troops at once commenced to land, but there was no pier and the banks shoaled so rapidly that the boats were unable to approach the shore, and it was not till 8.30 a.m. that the landing was completed. Each man carried three days' rations, with 100 rounds of ammunition, a reserve of 100 rounds per man being carried by porters. Three loads were allowed for each officer, but all other baggage was left on board the ships and placed ashore subsequently.

The column left Tendebar at 8.55 a.m., its