

trade, which appears to have suffered severely from the lawless state of the country, may be expected, both in Gambia and Casamance, to revive.

The natives have seen a heavy blow struck at Dumbutu, with such secrecy and celerity that the presence of troops in Gambia was altogether unknown to them. Those on the north bank witnessed the surprise of Salikeni and the arrest of all the chief agitators accomplished without the slightest resistance being possible.

Every district in Gambia in the least suspected of disaffection has been visited by troops, and the display of force should have a lasting effect. Of still greater importance has been the co-operation of the French forces with the British against a common enemy, and the total destruction of his power. These combined operations have been marked by the greatest cordiality and goodwill, and the natives have been taught that the boundary line no longer affords an asylum to criminals who flee from justice. This idea has hitherto proved a great stumbling-block to the pacification of the countries near the Gambia, and has now been destroyed.

28. In their dealings with the natives the conduct of the troops has been very good, for, although operating in a country largely disaffected, if not actually hostile, no complaints of ill-treatment by soldiers have been received. The heat during the last weeks has been intense, and officers and men have suffered considerably from it.

29. Most of the Europeans serving with the field force suffered from fever at different times, but the majority of the attacks were not sufficiently severe to oblige them to report themselves sick. The intense heat appears to have been the chief cause.

Amongst the native soldiers, both West Indian and Central African, the most prevalent complaints were dysentery and diarrhoea. I am inclined to attribute many of the cases amongst the West Indians to the quality of the rations of tinned meat issued to them. This has been made the subject of a special report to the Officer Commanding the troops at Sierra Leone.

30. To His Excellency Sir G. C. Denton, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gambia, my most sincere thanks are due. Sir George Denton accompanied several of the columns, and in every way in which he could do so, helped the progress of the expedition and added to the comfort of the troops. His advice and assistance to me were of the very greatest value.

31. I wish to bring prominently to notice the important part taken by the officers and men of H.M.S. "Forte," "Dwarf," and "Thrush" in the expedition. Without their assistance, always readily and cheerfully given, the transport of the troops and their supplies would have been matters of great difficulty. The work of constantly embarking and disembarking the troops was very heavy, and all operations of this nature were conducted by the officers and men of His Majesty's ships. I am also indebted to them for assisting me ashore. The number of officers at my disposal at the commencement of the operations was too small for the efficient organisation of the services of transport and supply, and the services of naval officers were placed at my disposal for these important duties, and in many other ways on different occasions I was given most valuable help.

32. To Captain R. C. Sparkes, Royal Navy,

Senior Naval Officer on the West Coast of Africa, my thanks are especially owed. The whole arrangements for the transport of troops, carriers, and stores from Sierra Leone and on the Gambia River were in his hands, and to the efficient and expeditious manner in which they were carried out the success of the expedition is largely due. In every manner possible Captain Sparkes went out of his way to assist me.

On Lieut.-Commander H. F. Shakespear, H.M.S. "Dwarf," and Lieut.-Commander W. H. D'Oyly, H.M.S. "Thrush," the main work of transporting the troops fell, and it was carried out in a most satisfactory and considerate manner. Both these officers served for short periods with the Central Africa Regiment, which was very short of officers when it arrived in Gambia. They did excellent service.

I have already mentioned Lieutenant F. Massey-Dawson. Lieutenants P. Johnson and J. M. Steel, with Mr. E. Holland, gunner, served with the transport at the beginning of the expedition, and carried out their unaccustomed duties completely to my satisfaction.

Fleet-Surgeon F. J. Lilly volunteered to organise a base hospital at Tendebar, as there were not sufficient medical officers to spare from the field columns for this duty. The hospital was a model of what it should be, and Fleet-Surgeon Lilly was untiring in his exertions.

I have also to thank Mr. W. H. Rothwell, Royal Naval Reserve, and the officers of the transport "Dwarka" for assistance cheerfully rendered me in many ways.

To Captain (temporary Major) H. Bryan, the Manchester Regiment, Chief Staff Officer, I am most indebted for valuable services rendered. On my arrival in Gambia I found that he had already made all the necessary preliminary arrangements, and throughout the operations Major Bryan performed his duties in a manner worthy of high praise. I consider him a most energetic and capable staff officer, and worthy of special notice.

Captain H. A. Thorne, the West India Regiment, acted throughout the expedition as Chief Transport Officer. He is hard working and able, and I beg to recommend him.

Captain L. R. Arthur, the Rifle Brigade, His Majesty's Consul at Dakar, was attached to my staff as Political Officer, and assisted me most loyally. He conducted the negotiations with the French authorities in Senegal, which resulted in the combined operations against Fodi Kabba being undertaken. I consider myself exceptionally fortunate in having had his assistance.

Captain (temporary Major) A. W. V. Plunkett, the Manchester Regiment, commanded the half battalion 2nd Central Africa Regiment, and was on more than one occasion in charge of detached columns. He is able and untiring, and has done very good service.

Lieutenant H. Hardy, Royal Army Medical Corps, is a hard-working and capable officer, and deserves my thanks. He accompanied me through Gambia, and did very good service. Mr. G. H. Sangster, Travelling Commissioner, Gambia, rendered good service in obtaining supplies, and during the operations against Fodi Kabba he did well at the head of the native levies.

I have, &c.,
H. E. BRAKE,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding Gambia Field Force.