

3. A landing was effected in open ground, some 700 yards north of Yola, at 10 A.M., without opposition. After forming up the troops I sent a trustworthy messenger with a letter to the Emir, containing the terms mentioned in your instructions.

In half an hour the messenger returned and stated that the Emir refused to receive the letter, and ordered me to leave at once. I now moved the force to a position about a quarter of a mile to my right where the ground was favourable and formed three sides of a square, my rear being covered by the lake. I again sent the letter by the same messenger, stating that I insisted on his receiving it and if he again refused I should take steps to force him to do so: the messenger was absent some time, and meanwhile, numbers of horse and foot were collecting to my front and right. I began to fear that my messenger had been killed, when he returned stating that the Emir still refused to receive the letter, and that if I did not at once re-embark he would drive me into the water.

4. As horse and foot still continued to stream out of the town, and it was evidently to our advantage to let them attack us in open ground rather than to engage them in the narrow streets where our superior arms would not have full play, I decided to await their attack.

5. About 1 P.M., after much shouting and exhortation from their Mallams, they advanced to the attack on our front and right: I reserved our fire till the leaders were within 200 yards, when I ordered the maxims to open, Companies to fire section volleys, and the guns case. In ten minutes the attack melted away, some few fanatical footmen getting close to the square before they were killed. The survivors fled into the town, which is not walled.

6. The Emir's palace and those of the other Chiefs are surrounded by walls 20 feet high and three feet thick at base: forming regular forts in themselves. From the top of a tree the roof of the King's palace could be seen some 900 yards distant in the town—a shell was burst over this and two shells fired in reply which fell wide.

7. I now formed up for an advance on the palace: the streets were narrow and winding, and we could only advance on a narrow front. Little resistance was met with till the neighbourhood of the palace was reached: but this and a mosque near it were strongly held by the enemy. I was wounded by an arrow from the mosque; and a heavy rifle and arrow fire caused many casualties in five minutes.

The two rifled guns of the enemy hidden round a bend in the road were fired at 30 yards' range, blowing off one man's leg and severely wounding several others. Major McClintock, who displayed the greatest gallantry throughout, led a charge followed by Captain Rose, and captured the guns before they could be fired again, Captain Baker driving the defenders from the mosque. The walls of the palace were still obstinately defended, and I ordered up the two 75 MM. guns which were well served under Lieutenant Henvey: the close-range fire of these guns was too much for the defenders and they began to leave the walls.

I now ordered Captain Mayne with his Company to rush the gate: this he did in gallant style and in a few moments the whole palace compound was cleared of the enemy.

In addition to the two nine-pounder rifled French guns already alluded to, 105 loaded and fused shell, 60 French rifles in good condition, and a large number of other firearms,

1,000 rounds small arm ammunition, a quantity of bullets and over a ton of gunpowder were captured.

Our casualties were myself and Major McClintock slightly wounded; two men killed, six dangerously, eight severely, and 23 slightly wounded—two of the latter gun carriers. The enemy's loss I estimate at 50 killed and 150 wounded. The Bornu men and Arabs, deserters from Fataralla, gave most trouble inside the town. The enemy were now flying in all directions.

8. Effective pursuit was impossible owing to the lateness of the hour and lack of horses.

I gave strict orders that no house was to be touched except the Emir's palace, which was fired, and at dusk we returned to the neighbourhood of the steamers.

9. Early on the morning of the 3rd, the audience chamber of the Emir's palace was blown up; no other houses in the town were interfered with. Dr. Cargill, Assistant Resident, was trying to get into communication with Bobo Amadu, the Emir's brother.

You arrived in the afternoon of the 3rd.

10. The Emir was now reported to have reached Gurin, on the Faro River (New Guria on the English map, which shows it well in English territory).

In accordance with your instructions on the afternoon of the 4th I embarked on s.s. "Nkissi" with 6 Officers, 2 Non-commissioned Officers, 150 rank and file, one 75 MM. gun and two Maxims, and, following your launch, started at midnight for Gurin.

The neighbourhood of Gurin was reached next day at 3 P.M., but as it appeared from your observations that the direction of the river was more correctly shown in the French map, and that Gurin was just on the boundary, you wisely decided not to land, and as it was also evident that the Emir was not there, and the people were flying, there was no necessity to do so. The night was spent at anchor, some five miles below the mouth of the Faro River.

11. As reports were received that the Emir now intended to cross at Ribawo, which is of course well within the English boundary, after your return to Yola on 6th September, I proceeded there, and going in close, found a number of the enemy holding some rocky ground. I tried to parley with them, but their attitude was very hostile: as I should have landed here under considerable disadvantages and under close arrow range from the enemy, themselves under cover, I proceeded up stream a quarter of a mile and landed on open ground, under cover of Maxim fire from the steamer, thus cutting off the men holding the rocks from the town. I now advanced, compelling the holders of the rocks to come out or be cut off.

They were finally driven away and pursued for a mile or more; horsemen on distant ridges were shelled: as all available canoes had been removed there was no possibility of a crossing here so I re-embarked, leaving the town intact. We had no casualties; the enemy's loss was not great, as there was a good deal of cover. At mid-day Yola was reached.

12. As negotiations were now proceeding with Bobo Adadu, and the people shewed signs of wishing to return to the town, no further columns were sent out after the Emir for fear of frightening those who wished to return. Reports showed that he was accompanied only by 30 horsemen, deserted by the majority of his people and was close to the German frontier.