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War Office.

24th April, 1903.

The following Despatches have been received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

NORTHERN NIGERIA.

High Commissioner Sir F. D. Lugard to Mr. Chamberlain.

(Received September 13, 1902.)

Despatch relating to Field Operations.

Stern-wheeler "Empire," Mureji, August 16, 1902.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the military reports of the Commandant upon the expedition to Bornu, and the operations which resulted in the capture of the ex-Emir of Kontagora, together with short reports on two other expeditions.

2. I had intended to proceed myself to Bornu to enquire into the position created by the recent incursions and the death of Fad-el-Allah, but I found it impossible to do so, and I therefore instructed Colonel Morland, Commandant, to proceed there with a force of about 500 rank and file and 20 British officers and non-commissioned officers. His orders were to proceed via Bautshi, the Emir of which place had refused to listen to warnings and to desist from slave raids and attacks on caravans, &c. Mr. Wallace, C.M.G., accompanied the force to this point. After leaving a garrison of about one company at Bautshi, Colonel Morland was directed to proceed to Gujba, the scene of the French victory over Fad-el-Allah, and to make full enquiry. He would leave another company there, and I left it to his discretion what further action he might find it necessary to take for the pacification of the country, and the prevention of further raids. I desired that he should return, if possible, along the Anglo-German frontier, and furnish me with as much geographical and political information as possible regarding the frontier as far as Yola, since I had news that a powerful German expedition was proceeding in that direction. The expedition was to be back by May 15th.

3. Colonel Morland carried out his instructions in an admirable manner, which left nothing to be desired. His attached report speaks for itself as to the military ability shown in the conduct of the fighting which took place, and I have already brought his services to your notice in the strongest terms at my command for the tact, ability, and thoroughness with which he accomplished the political part of his task.

4. I arrived in the Protectorate on November 18th, but it was not till about the end of January that I heard definitely from you whether the Sokoto boundary delimitation would take place at once or not. About that date I gave orders for the Bornu expedition to start. Some preparations had already been made, and the organization was completed with great rapidity, about 900 carriers being required (in order to carry supplies and ammunition for the garrisons which would be left at Bautshi and Gujba, in addition to the requirements of the force). In spite of the fact that steamers could not ascend the river at that time, it was ready to start from Ibi (300 miles up the Benue from Lokoja) at the end of January.

5. After subjugating a turbulent hill tribe (the Yergums) the force reached Bautshi on the 16th February (160 miles), and the garrison was located without opposition. Proceeding thence, Colonel Morland was attacked by a force of some 700 dervishes dressed in the "jibbeh," followers of the Mallam Jibrella, who called himself a Mahdi, and had long been the firebrand of this part of the Protectorate, and hitherto invariably victorious. The enemy were defeated with great loss, and a most energetic pursuit by a number of flying columns was organized, with the result that the Mallam was captured by Lieutenant Dyer, who, as Colonel Morland relates, rode 70 miles in 17 hours (with ten men only), and was back at Gujba in 42 hours, a very remarkable performance indeed in a roadless country.

6. Colonel Morland reached Gujba on the 11th March, 170 miles in a direct line from Bautshi, apart from the detour made on account of the