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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1904.

War Office,  
28th October, 1904.

The following Despatches relating to operations in Northern and Southern Nigeria have been received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

From Brigadier-General Sir F. J. D. Lugard, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., High Commissioner Northern Nigeria, to the Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

Sir, 8th August, 1903.

I have the honour to forward a letter addressed to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, C.M.G., D.S.O., now on leave in England, with its enclosures, for your consideration.

2. I have great pleasure in recording my hearty appreciation of the way in which Captain G. C. Merrick, R.A., and the officers and troops under his command, carried out the difficult task entrusted to them, and I recommend that they should be included in the grant of the medal for 1902. It was indeed a matter of surprise to me that Captain Merrick was able to traverse the whole of the area round Sokoto, and to supply me with serviceable maps and information in anticipation of the arrival of the Boundary Commission, without incurring serious hostilities. I consider that he carried out his orders with great tact, and he displayed a firmness and decision, without incurring friction, with which I was especially pleased.

3. If you concur in my proposal, I will instruct Colonel Morland to include the names in his medal roll unless he has any reasons which he desires to represent to me against such a course.

I have, &c.,

F. D. LUGARD.

From Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, C.M.G., D.S.O., to His Excellency the High Commissioner, Northern Nigeria.

Your Excellency, 31st July, 1903.

I have the honour to forward the attached correspondence from Captain Merrick requesting that the troops under his command at Argungu, and on the French Convoy duty, during the period 15th June to 30th November, 1902, be granted the medal (or clasp as the case may be) inscribed "N. Nigeria, 1902."

2. Captain Merrick, in forwarding me this request for submission to the Commandant and ultimately to yourself, asks me, as I was acting Commandant at the time, to say anything that I may think fit to further the application. This I am glad to be able to do, for, as I have stated, in my memorandum to Colonel Morland attached, everything points to your having been completely satisfied with the carrying out of the Mission by Captain Merrick, and also as regards the tact and gallantry displayed by the officers and men under him.

3. I have informed Colonel Morland that I send you a copy of the correspondence in order to save time and trouble should he feel desirous of submitting it to you.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR FESTING,

Brevet Major R.I. Rifles,  
Local Lieutenant-Colonel W.A.F.F.

Commandant, 31st July, 1903.

The attached have been forwarded to me by Captain Merrick, R.A., with the request that as I was acting for you at the time, I would make any