

to the care of the sick and wounded. I consider them both deserving of much credit.

9. Major Marsh's death was keenly felt by all, although the great loss was tempered by the fact that he died as a soldier would wish, directing his storming party in the hour of victory.

10. The complete success of the recent operations, which led to the severest fighting yet undertaken by the West African Frontier Force in Northern Nigeria, will, no doubt, have a most quieting effect throughout the whole of the Sokoto Empire, and has enabled me to effectively occupy Katagum Province the last of the 16 Provinces in the Protectorate.

I have, &c.,

W. WALLACE,

Acting High Commissioner.

Zungeru,

27th October, 1903.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward the following report on the military operations from the time the ex-Sultan of Sokoto left Gusau in the middle of April till the capture of Burmi and his death on 27th July, compiled from various reports received from different officers.

2. On 15th April the Officer Commanding Sokoto, at the request of the Resident, Major Burdon, detached 60 men under Captain Goodwin from the Sokoto garrison to endeavour to capture the ex-Sultan, who was at Gusau, 100 miles east of that town. This party did not get in touch with him as he fled to the east on their approach.

3. Meanwhile Dr. Cargill, the Resident of Kano, who was touring in his province with a small escort, discovered the movement east, the Sultan passing within a few miles of him, and at once sent instructions to the Officer Commanding Kano to endeavour to head him off, at the same time informing the Resident of Zaria and asking him to do the same.

4. In compliance with these instructions, on 22nd April, Captain Sword, with one British Non-Commissioned Officer, 42 rank and file and a Maxim gun, struck S.E. from Kano. On the same date Major Crawley, Officer Commanding Zaria, despatched Lieut. Crozier and 25 men of the Mounted Infantry from Zaria, with orders to capture the ex-Sultan and Magaji of Keffi, if possible, but not to proceed far in their pursuit; this party came up at Gimmi with some 30 horsemen and 50 footmen in charge of cattle, killing 6 of them, wounding others and capturing the cattle. Two Mounted Infantry men forming part of a patrol of 6 were wounded by poisoned arrows and died from the effects. Continuing the pursuit to Tutumbiki, Lieut. Crozier inflicted further loss on the enemy, but his horses being exhausted and the ex-Sultan being far ahead, he returned to Zaria.

5. At 8 p.m. on the 25th April Captain Sword reached Gala, hoping to surprise the ex-Sultan; but his approach had been observed by horsemen, and the ex-Sultan, Magaji of Keffi, and their following fled in all directions, losing several killed.

On 26th and 27th Captain Sword engaged the rear-guard of the enemy four times, capturing 20 mounted men, some cattle and four rifles.

In the next few days several hundred men, women and children were sent back to their homes.

On the 2nd May at Yarari he was attacked by the people of Duchi and Zutungwa who were

leaving their town to follow the ex-Sultan to the East; he killed 20 of them and dispersed the rest.

On 4th May he was reinforced by 20 men with extra reserve ammunition under Lieutenant Luttmann-Johnson. On 6th he again came up with some 300 horsemen and many bowmen, but the enemy fled after a show of fighting, losing 15 killed.

On the 7th Captain Sword reached the large town of Messau, the Emir of this place was besieging his own town which had been seized by a usurper during his absence at Sokoto some months previously; he had been joined by the ex-Sultan outside the walls. The siege was raised on Captain Sword's approach, the combined forces of Sokoto and Messau flying to the south-east. Captain Sword was well received by the Chief and people in the town.

On the 8th the pursuit was continued; on the 9th a junction was effected with a force from Bautchi which had left that place on May 5th under Major Plummer, consisting of two officers, 70 rank and file, and a Maxim, the total force now consisted of four officers, one British non-commissioned officer, 130 rank and file, with two Maxims.

6. While these operations were in progress, Lieutenant the Honourable D. Carleton, M.I., with one British non-commissioned officer and 15 mounted men left Kano at end of April, and followed in Captain Sword's track, diverging to the south to endeavour to capture a son of the ex-Sultan who was hurrying to join him: a party of 200 of the latter's followers turned on him and attacked him, he killed 13, and the rest fled. Finding large numbers of the population of the various towns who had followed the ex-Sultan returning to their homes, and the country quieting down, he returned to Kano and reported to the Resident. On 8th May, Major Crawley, commanding at Zaria, on receiving news of the extent of the movement despatched Major Barlow, with two officers and 60 men of the Mounted Infantry, to follow Captain Sword and support him.

7. The first definite news of the movement reached me at Zungeru on the 4th May. I at once despatched a runner with detailed instructions to Major Crawley, directing him, as senior officer, to arrange for the co-operation of the garrisons of Kano, Zaria, Bautchi, and Gujiba for the capture of the ex-Sultan; but, owing to the distance from headquarters of the various posts, Residents and officers had rightly acted on their own initiative, and my instructions arrived long after action had been taken by them.

8. To return to the movements of Captain Sword: with the combined force mentioned in paragraph 5, on 10th May, he followed the ex-Sultan along the course of Gongola River, passing many people who were peacefully following him, as they thought, to Mecca, without interfering with them. So far his force had not suffered a single casualty.

On 13th about 11.30 a.m. he was passing the town of Burmi and sent in a messenger to the Mallam of that place, a reputed Mahdi (the successor of Mallam Jibrella), asking him to come out and see him; the Mallam refused to come, so a section under Major Plummer proceeded into the town; they were fired on, and, as large numbers were collecting, retired from the town, joining Captain Sword, who formed square 100 yards from the wall. A determined attack was at once made on the square by hundreds of men who swarmed out of the gates and over the walls; this attack was repulsed with heavy loss to the enemy, but an attempt to enter the town