



# The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1906.

*War Office, 23rd February 1906.*

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

From the High Commissioner, Southern Nigeria, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

22nd July, 1905.

Despatch relating to Field Operations, October 1904 to June 1905.

Sir,

I have the honour to report on the pacification and settlement work carried out during the dry season 1904-5.

2. Eight distinct operations were undertaken:—

(I.) On the west of the Niger, the Irrua patrol under the command of Captain Ian G. Hogg, D.S.O., 4th Hussars, between the 3rd of October and 1st of November.

(II.) The Onitsha Hinterland Expedition, between 17th of November and 22nd of March, under the command of Brevet Major H. C. Moorhouse, R.A.

(III.) A column under Brevet Major H. M. Trenchard, Royal Scots Fusiliers, patrolled through the unsettled portion of the Ibibio and Kwa country, between the 15th of November and 27th of February.

(IV.) A column under Lieutenant (local Captain) C. E. W. Carleton, West India Regiment, traversed the hitherto unexplored portion of the Ekpaffia country, punished certain towns therein for the murders of native traders, and subsequently went through the Etchie country to the east. The command of this force was taken over by Captain W. J. S. Hosley, Lancashire Fusiliers, just before the Ogoni country, between Bonny and Opobo, was visited. The operations of this column extended from the 27th of October to 20th of March.

(V.) A column under Captain E. C. Margesson, South Wales Borderers, marched from the Enyong Creek, via Asaga and Afikpo, through

the Ezza, Onitsha, and Acharra countries to Oheki on the Cross River opposite Obubra Hill. Its operations took place between the 11th of March and the 2nd of June.

(VI.) A small punitive force visited the town of Ikoto-Okotobo in the Eket country.

(VII.) Subsequent to operation No. 4 a small patrol in the Ekpaffia country, between the 3rd and 7th of April, effected the arrest of a chief named Wohpara, and his followers, who had attacked a friendly chief and killed his son.

(VIII.) A small force, from the Owerri garrison, under Lieutenant J. Halfpenny, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, visited certain Noria towns situated near the Owerri-Aba road between the 21st of April and 5th of May.

3. The patrol through the Irrua country was ordered on account of murders, robberies and other acts of violence on passing traders, and to subdue a rising against the paramount Chief of Agbede.

The force under Captain I. G. Hogg, D.S.O., 4th Hussars, was composed of:—

4 European Officers,  
1 Medical Officer,  
1 Political Officer,

139 Rank and file, with 2 guns,

and traversed a large area of country in the Benin and Ifon districts, but at only one place, Akindu, was active opposition experienced. Here a detachment under Lieutenant P. S. Vassall, Gloucestershire Regiment, was hotly opposed, two native soldiers being killed and six wounded.

Numerous towns were visited, and, where necessary, fined.

Sergeant-Major A. E. Klee, R.A., is specially mentioned for gallantry and energy at the attack on Akindu.

The Cotton Association had since opened an estate in the Uromi country in the midst of the district traversed by the patrol, and Political Officers are now stationed at Agbede and at Agbor.

4. The most important work done was that