

effected by the column under Brevet Major H. C. Moorhouse, R.A., in the Onitsha hinterland, where a stretch of country from 20 to 30 miles wide, extending from the Anambra Creek to Oguta, was visited. A great portion of this country was absolutely unknown, the inhabitants refusing to permit either Europeans or native traders to enter it.

The column consisted of:—

7 European Officers,

3 European Non-commissioned Officers; and

257 Rank and file.

This force started from Ogrugru, on the Anambra Creek, on November the 18th. The whole of the country visited is thickly populated; large towns with from five to ten thousand inhabitants occurring every few miles. The force frequently operated in detached columns, visiting, as far as possible, every town and explaining the Government requirements. Major Moorhouse reports that serious armed opposition was only met with at Obukpa on December 1st, at Enugu on January 8th, and at Umoogi on January 21st. At Obukpa a night march of eight miles and a feint attack on a prepared position, which was a strong one, enabled him to engage the enemy in the open and inflict considerable loss on them.

At Enugu and Umoogi the fighting was from house to house. In the Owerri District, though shots were exchanged almost every day, there was nothing calling for special comment. During the expedition Major Moorhouse collected 1,092 rifles and 9,170 cap guns in the Onitsha Hinterland. A new station has been established at Oka, 25 miles east of Onitsha. Throughout the whole territory the native chiefs have promised to abandon cannibalism, slave dealing, and human sacrifice, and have agreed to the establishment of native courts for the trial of all offences.

Oka is interesting as the headquarters of a very large community of blacksmiths and copper smiths, and men from this place are found in the most distant parts of the Protectorate. They execute wonderfully good work with the most primitive apparatus. I traversed the whole of this district myself a month after the patrol completed its work, and, though it was deemed advisable that I should be accompanied by a considerable escort, never met with any opposition. Though I frequently bicycled far ahead along the native paths I saw no signs of hostility, though the unusual sight of my machine caused great consternation to most of the people we met.

Major Moorhouse brings to special notice the skill and gallantry of Captain J. Wayling, Canadian Militia, at Obukpa, and of Lieutenant C. V. Fox, Scots Guards, at Umoogi. Lieutenant Fox also proved a most efficient Staff Officer. Mr. Boyle, as Political Officer in the Onitsha Hinterland, and Mr. H. M. Douglas in the Owerri District rendered good service. Dr. Christian is reported as having been unremitting in his care of the sick.

5. The Ibibio-Kwa patrol. The column commanded by Brevet Major H. M. Trenchard, Royal Scots Fusiliers, consisted of:—

7 European Officers;

2 Non-commissioned Officers;

1 Medical Officer;

Mr. Palmer as Political Officer; and

270 Rank and file and 1 gun.

It had instructions to establish law and order in the districts not dealt with in previous years, and to insist on the surrender of all war guns. Considerable opposition was met with—

(a) By a detachment under Captain E. de H. Smith, R.A., on 5th December, at Epenokum;

(b) By a small column, under Captain W. J. S. Hosley, at Ibirikpo, which was surrounded on all

sides in dense bush, and fired on throughout the day; and again

(c) On the 6th February while camping at Ndia Kata, Major Trenchard was attacked by three separate parties, and his force must have suffered heavy casualties but for the extraordinary bad shooting of the natives. With the exception of these three occasions only slight opposition was met with. 4,313 cap guns, including 250 sniders and a quantity of snider ammunition were surrendered and destroyed.

Major Trenchard brings to notice Captain Hosley as showing great activity on several occasions; Lieutenant E. A. Steel, R.A., as a hard working and capable Staff Officer; Lieutenant J. F. Mackay, V.C., King's Own Scottish Borderers, as showing great knowledge of bush fighting; Native Sergeant-Major Seberu Ilorin for gallant leading of his section; and says he is specially indebted to Mr. Palmer, as Chief Political Officer, for information obtained and for capable transport work.

The force had 5 men killed and 21 wounded, and its work was much interfered with by an extraordinary outbreak of guinea worm which attacked most of the men who had taken part in an expedition in the Mkpani country, on the left bank of the Cross River, some nine months previously. This has been separately reported on, and was traced to the drinking of water in one village, and affords the clearest proof of the great length of time which elapses between infection and the appearance of the worm. Five of the Europeans who were in the former expedition suffered from guinea worm, as well as nearly 200 of the native troops and followers.

6. The Ekpaffia country had never been explored or brought under control. In April, 1904, the District Commissioner at Degama visited the southern portion of the country with a small police escort, and was successful in persuading the people to surrender their war guns, subject to the stipulation that disarmament should proceed throughout the whole country. On again visiting the country, Mr. Syer found that a number of towns had combined together to oppose him, and just after his entering into the country an attack was made on some native traders at Ahoada, and a number of them killed and wounded and their goods looted. He was himself fired on from the banks of the river. The punitive column, under Lieutenant (Local Captain) C. E. W. Carleton, West India Regiment, started from Ahoada on the 27th of October, and consisted of:—

5 European Officers.

1 Non-commissioned Officer.

200 Rank and file.

1 2·95 gun and 2 Maxims.

The country is very flat, swampy, and thickly populated. The force at once met with severe and constant resistance, the chief fighting taking place at Orumineye, where Colour-Sergeant Scaulan was killed.

Captain Carleton reports that the whole town was "loopholed, enabling the enemy to pour heavy fire on our men." Many other towns were found strongly fortified. Ogbo was strongly defended "by lines of trenches encircling the town . . ." "the walls cleverly loopholed, enfilading the streets, in which were many cleverly hidden staked pits." Resistance was not subdued until the 26th of December, when 4,010 guns had been surrendered, and a large fine paid by those towns which had seized property belonging to native traders. The column then proceeded to the Etchie country, lying to the east of Ekpaffia, with Mr. J. O'Connell as Political Officer, to disarm the