

River Benue the same day started for Zungeru via Lafia-Beri-Beri, Keffi, and Abuja.

9. In the meantime No. 2 Column had been traversing the Massava Kwaraba country. This column also met with only half-hearted resistance.

They covered a large tract of country, burning the guilty towns, releasing captives, and recovering a portion of the stolen property.

About 30 of the enemy were killed by them, their only casualty being Captain C. F. Thornton, who was slightly wounded.

10. On my arrival at Abinsi I sent out an Officer with 20 men to recall the column under Lieutenant-Colonel Dobell, which arrived at Abinsi on February the 26th.

Leaving half a company at Abinsi, he proceeded down the Benue in canoes, but under your instructions I deflected one of his companies at Loko to proceed via Keffi to Bauchi.

11. The results of the expedition are that :—

(a) Practically all the towns concerned in the attack on Abinsi, the murdering of the Hausa men and women, the looting of the store, and the taking away captives into slavery were heavily punished. Their towns have been destroyed, a large portion of their food supply confiscated and burnt, and about 50 of their men killed.

A few towns on the north bank of the River Benue which were implicated in the looting subsequent to the attack, and who are reported to have some captives in their possession, were not dealt with owing to the expedition being suddenly recalled.

(b) Fifty of the captured Hausas were released.

(c) A certain amount of the stolen property was recovered.

(d) A good survey of all the country traversed was made. This was not, of course, as complete a survey of the Munshi country and the River Benue, as would have been possible had the force not been suddenly recalled.

(e) I feel confident that the moral effect of the expedition on the Munshis has been so great that the country could be administered by a Resident if a garrison of one company were posted at, say, Katsena Allah.

12. I would call your attention to the fine marching performance of the troops on their being recalled.

On receiving your urgent wire with the news of the rising at Sokoto it appeared quite possible that there would be a general religious rising throughout the Protectorate. I therefore called upon the Officers and men for a special effort.

No. 1 Column, consisting of two companies of infantry and one 2.95 Q.F. gun, marched 312 miles, the last 180 miles of which were over a very bad and rocky road, in 12½ days.

The half-company of No. 2 Column, the remainder being en route to Nafada and at Abinsi, covered the 83 miles from Kachia via Bidi to Bari Jako in less than 48 hours.

13. The force was assisted in every way by Mr. W. F. Gowers, Resident, Muri Province, who was indefatigable in procuring guides and intelligence.

Mr. Norton-Smith, Assistant Resident, Muri Province, also did good work with No. 2 Column.

The arrangements made by Lieutenant C. Elliott, R.N.R., the Marine Superintendent at Lokoja, for the embarkation of the force were excellent. His staff were very hard worked in collecting canoes, &c., and are deserving of the highest praise.

14. The medical arrangements were very good and complete. An outbreak of small-pox among the carriers looked serious at one time, but all suspicious cases were isolated and the epidemic checked.

15. The marching and shooting of the troops was very good and their discipline excellent. †

16. I submit to your notice the names of the following Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and men whom I consider deserving of special mention for their work :—

Brevet Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) C. M. Dobell, D.S.O., Royal Welsh Fusiliers; This Officer commanded a column with great skill and judgment. He is an Officer eminently suited as a leader. All his dispositions were excellent.

Captain (temporary Major) P. M. Robinson, Royal West Kent Regiment. Major Robinson was Chief Staff Officer to the force and Staff Officer to No. 1 Column when the force was separated. His arrangements were perfect. This Officer has all the qualities of a good Staff Officer in the field. He was highly mentioned for his good work in this capacity on the Burmi Expedition in 1903.

Captain P. H. Short, Gloucestershire Regiment. This Officer did good work and showed discretion when in command of the advanced force. He has already been mentioned for good work in this country. His energy and ability are of a high order.

Captain J. Mackenzie, V.C., The Royal Scots. This Officer was Staff Officer to No. 2 Column, and his work is especially mentioned by Lieutenant-Colonel Dobell.

Honorary Lieutenant (and Quartermaster) D. Lees. This Officer performed in the most capable manner the arduous task of collecting and organising the carriers of the force, and rationing them and the soldiers. He has done most valuable service in this country.

Lieutenant W. D. Barber, King's Royal Rifle Corps. This Officer's ability and energy mark him for special consideration. His handling of a patrol on the 22nd of February was particularly creditable, he managed to surround and surprise a bush camp, and in the encounter which ensued killed 6 of the enemy.

Captain H. C. L. Cock, Royal Artillery. This Officer performed the duties of Intelligence and Sketching Officer. He was absolutely indefatigable in his efforts, and has produced an excellent survey of the country traversed.

Staff-Sergeant L. Woodell, Royal Army Medical Corps. This Non-commissioned Officer was most energetic and untiring in the performance of his duties. The excellent work performed by him during the Yola campaign of 1901 was very highly commended by Colonel T. L. N. Morland, C.B., D.S.O., in his despatches.

Orderly Room Sergeant J. O. C. Suffield, Royal West Kent Regiment, performed the duties of Colour-Sergeant to a company, and Sergeant-