

Major to a column. His work was done in the most efficient and capable manner.

Also the following native ranks :—

- No. 2036 Company Sergeant-Major Okero Muzum.
No. 2 Company Sergeant-Major Ayodele.
No. 706 Sergeant Awdu N'Gaski.
No. 3093 Private Awdu Bida.

I have, &c.,

J. HASLER, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Acting Commandant, N. Nigeria Regiment.

To His Excellency The High Commissioner,
Northern Nigeria.

Southern Nigeria.

Government House, Lagos, 9th June, 1906.

Despatch relating to Field Operations.

My Lord,

I have the honour to forward herewith the report of the Officer Commanding the Southern Nigeria Regiment on the military operations carried out in the Protectorate during the dry season of 1905-06.

2. The operations were three in number :—

- (1) The Brass District Patrol.
- (2) Operations in the Kwale-Ishan District.
- (3) The Bende-Onitsha Hinterland Expedition.

(1) In the first there was little fighting. The officers and men engaged had to endure great hardships and discomfort from the swampy nature of the country.

(2) In the second a small escort of 70 rank and file were unexpectedly attacked in a most determined manner, the three responsible officers being wounded, but the district was pacified by the larger force sent into it afterwards without any serious resistance being met with.

(3) The third, the Bende-Onitsha Hinterland Expedition, was the largest which has been undertaken since the Aro Expedition in 1901-2, and dealt with a large tract of country adjacent to that pacified by the Aro Expedition, all of which is very thickly populated by tribes more barbarous and less intelligent than any hitherto met with in Southern Nigeria. The chief difficulty met with was the country being split up into innumerable independent towns or communities, the chiefs of which are nearly always decrepit old men possessing little authority or control over their tribe, the real power being vested in the young men. The large quantities of arms of precision surrendered show how very completely armed the population was.

3. The country in which this force operated is midway between the Niger and the Cross River, and one of the results of the operations is the opening of direct communication between Onitsha, the chief Government and trading station on the Niger, via the new station of Oka, established last year, direct to Ikot Ekpene and Itu on the Cross River.

4. I endorse the mentions made by Colonel Moorhouse, and would suggest that the services of Brevet Major H. M. Trenchard are worthy of special consideration. Of the Civil Officers I consider that Mr. A. W. S. Smythe's services deserve special consideration, as well as those of

Mr. H. M. Douglas, the Political Officer with Major Trenchard's force.

I have, &c.,

W. EGERTON, Governor.

The Right Honourable The Earl of
Elgin, P.C., K.G., &c.

Lagos, 6th June, 1906.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to forward for your Excellency's information a report on the operations undertaken by the Southern Nigeria Regiment between June, 1905, and June, 1906.

1. The Brass District Patrol.

2. The object of this patrol was the suppression of repeated acts of piracy, seizing and slave dealing in the various creeks which run through this district.

3. For this purpose a force of 3 Officers, 2 British Non-commissioned Officers, 1 Medical, 1 Political, 1 Marine Officer, 2 Maxims and 150 rank and file concentrated at Akassa on September 13th. The operations lasted until October 22nd.

4. The active resistance met with was slight, the natives usually firing a few shots and making off in small canoes through the network of creeks; both officers and men, however, endured considerable hardships and discomfort in tracking them down, during the rains, in a country that is practically a swamp intersected by creeks.

5. The object of the patrol was successfully carried out; the principal offenders were either captured or surrendered voluntarily and have been handed over to the civil authorities for trial. The district, though left without troops, has been quiet since the departure of the column.

II. Operations in the Kwale and Ishan Districts.

6. Early in October there was a certain amount of unrest in the Kwale district, and to enable the District Commissioner to deal with it an escort of 2 Officers, 1 British Non-commissioned Officer, and 70 rank and file, with a Maxim, were sent him.

7. This small force met with a totally unexpected and somewhat serious reverse on October 12th at Ijonnema, where the enemy fought in an unusually desperate manner, and with one man killed, Lieutenant Irvine dangerously, Captain Vassall severely and Mr. Davidson, the Political Officer, slightly wounded, and 21 casualties among the rank and file, this small force was compelled to return to friendly territory.

8. A force of 6 Officers and 246 rank and file, under Brevet Major Maclear, was sent immediately from the Lagos Battalion, W.A.F.F., and a 2.95 gun from Calabar. The Lagos contingent remained in the Kwale country until November 10th, visiting the villages round Ijonnema and getting the chiefs in. Only slight opposition was met with. On November 4th a column composed of 3 Officers, 1 British Non-commissioned Officer, 135 rank and file, and a Maxim, under the command of Captain Margessen, had entered the Kwale district from the east and joined up with the Lagos contingent.

9. As soon as the contingent left for Lagos Captain Margessen was reinforced by 2 Officers,