

1 British Non-commissioned Officer, 60 rank and file, and two 2·95 guns; with this force he remained in the Kwale district until December 12th, meeting with considerable opposition in several villages, but all the chiefs eventually submitted.

Leaving behind a detachment of 1 Officer, 1 British Non-commissioned Officer, and 50 men as garrison, he proceeded to the Ishan district to effect the capture of the murderers of the friendly chief of Egwaboi, the murderers and their instigators were in the village of Ibiuru, where considerable opposition was met with for three days, but the village then surrendered and gave up the murderers. The column reached Asaba on January 27th.

III. The Bende-Onitsha Hinterland Expedition.

10. In accordance with your instructions two columns of a strength of 7 Officers, 3 British Non-commissioned Officers, 2 Political, 3 Medical, 1 Transport Officer, 325 rank and file, 3 Maxims, two 2·95 guns, and 6 Officers, 2 British Non-commissioned Officers, 1 Medical Officer, 200 rank and file, and 2 Maxims respectively concentrated on Bende and Oka under Brevet Major Trenchard, Royal Scots Fusiliers, and Captain Mair, R.F.A.

11. The objective of these columns was to bring under Government control the country lying south of latitude 6° 30' N. bounded on the west by the Okaoguta road, on the east by a line joining Afikpo and Abakaliki, and on the south by the Bende-Owerri road, in which slave trading and human sacrifices existed and which was unknown country closed to trade. This had to be modified later owing to the lamented murder of Dr. Stewart and the subsequent general rising of the district near the scene of the murder.

12. The columns joined up on November 30th, a base camp was formed on the Imo River, after which Major Trenchard again split up his force and worked the country with three and sometimes four small columns. The first portion of the country to be dealt with was the southern sphere, at or adjacent to the scene of the murder of Dr. Stewart. The most continued and obstinate resistance was met with, trenches and stockades being found everywhere, and it was necessary to keep troops in this neighbourhood until the close of the operations on April 15th.

As soon as troops could be spared from the southern sphere they were moved west and north; here less active opposition was met with but it took some time to carry out the disarmament of the natives and obtain the submission of their chiefs.

13. The column, which is the largest that has been employed out here since 1902, covered 1,100 square miles of country, most of which had not been previously visited; the principles of Government rule have been explained to the people, and it is to be hoped that they will settle down peacefully. All the important people who took part in the murder of Dr. Stewart have either been killed in action, captured, or handed over by friendlies, and have since been tried by the Civil Authorities. A new station has been established in the middle of the country dealt with.

14. There have also been minor operations in the Ikot Ekpene and Abakaliki districts under Captain Wayling, Canadian Militia, Captain

Smith, R.F.A., which have been brought to a successful conclusion but require no special comment.

15. The following arms of precision were captured or given up:—

Snider rifles, 571.

Cap guns, 2,187.

16. The following is a return of casualties:—

Officers—

1 Dangerously wounded.

1 Severely wounded.

2 Slightly wounded.

Rank and file—

1 Killed.

6 Dangerously wounded.

20 Severely wounded.

32 Slightly wounded.

17. I wish to bring to your Excellency's notice the services rendered and good work done by the following Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and men, who are in my opinion worthy of consideration:—

Brevet Major H. M. Trenchard, Royal Scots Fusiliers, has commanded a column of 800 men in the field for five months and shown energy, resource and powers of organisation far above the average. I wish to bring his services specially to Your Excellency's notice.

Captain G. T. Mair, Royal Field Artillery, has commanded a sub-column for five months; to his dash and resource several important captures are due; he showed powers of command in the field of a high order.

Captain W. J. S. Hosley, Lancashire Fusiliers, commanded the Brass patrol with tact, skill and energy; has also done excellent work as Adjutant of the Regiment.

Lieutenant (local Captain) C. V. Fox, Scots Guards, did exceptionally good work and was very successful while in command of a column.

Lieutenant E. A. Steel, R.F.A., acted as Staff Officer to Major Trenchard for two-and-a-half months, was most capable and hard working; did excellent work in mapping the country.

Sergeant Angus, Seaforth Highlanders, deserves special mention for special gallantry in the field, and his resource in commanding men in difficult situations.

No. 3087 Company Sergeant-Major Summanu, "D" Company, for great bravery and as a splendid leader of scouts.

No. 3014 Private Mama Kanu, "H" Company, for distinguished conduct on several occasions.

No. 2285 Private Ogunyori, "D" Company, for gallant conduct as leading man of the point.

No. 2728 Private James Bakare, "A" Company, for distinguished conduct at Omo Dibia and Omo Hima.

The following are deserving of mention:—

Brevet Major P. Maclear, Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Captain E. C. Margesson, South Wales Borderers.

Captain C. E. Heathcote, Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Captain R. M. D. Fox, Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Captain E. D. H. Smith, Royal Field Artillery.

Lieutenant C. E. Vickery, D.S.O., Royal Artillery.

Lieutenant H. C. Fox, Royal Scots Fusiliers.

Lieutenant J. F. Mackay, V.C., King's Own Scottish Borderers.