

stronghold of desperadoes, and to have been a very nasty place to tackle. The operations seem to have been well planned and conducted, and though the large number of casualties is regrettable, it does not seem to have been possible, from the nature of the ground and the determination with which the enemy fought, to have been avoided.

I bring to your Excellency's notice the skilful manner in which the operations were handled by Lieutenant P. Chapman, M.I., Northern Nigeria Regiment, and consider that his services are worthy of special consideration.

I further bring to your notice the names of Lieutenant C. A. Chaytor, 2nd Battalion, Northern Nigeria Regiment, Dr. A. C. Parsons, and also No. 2547 Sergeant Dan Halide and Sergeant-Major Amadu Yoruba.

I request that a tracing of the map be sent by the Intelligence Office to the Brigade Office.

A road report of the Maifone-Chibuk road has been called for and will be forwarded on arrival.

I have, &c.,

J. HASLER, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Acting Commandant.

His Excellency, The Acting High Commissioner,
Northern Nigeria.

Taking into consideration the arduous nature of these operations, I recommend that the African General Service Medal be granted to all Officers and men who took part in them.

J. H., Lieutenant-Colonel.

Government House, Zungeru,
5th June, 1907.

Field Operations Chibuk country.

My Lord,

In continuation of my Despatch No. 121 of the 27th of March last, I have the honour to transmit a further report from the Commandant on the operations recently undertaken in the Chibuk country.

2. I would invite your Lordship's attention to the recommendations made by Colonel Hasler in regard to Lieutenants Chapman and Wolseley and the non-commissioned officers and men under their command, in which recommendations, as also in the recommendation that a General Service Medal be granted to those engaged in these operations, I fully concur.

I have, &c.,

WM. WALLACE.

For High Commissioner.

The Right Honourable the Secretary
of State for the Colonies.

Brigade Office, Northern Nigeria Regiment,
West African Frontier Force.

11th May, 1907.

Sir,

On the 11th March, 1907, I forwarded to you a despatch on the operations in the Chibuk country under Lieutenant P. Chapman. I imagined at this time that the operations were completed. Since then a second phase of the

same operations has taken place under the command of Lieutenant E. J. Wolseley, two reports, dated 31st December, 1906, and 14th January, 1907, I have already sent you under my F/531/07 of 6th April, 1907, and further two reports from the same Officer, dated the 6th and 19th February respectively, from Chibuk, I now attach. In addition to this, further information has reached me concerning the first phase in the shape of a letter from the Resident, Bornu, and of conversation with Lieutenant Chapman.

I therefore think it best to re-write my despatch and in the new one to include Lieutenant Wolseley's operations.

As I informed you in my first despatch the Chibuk Hill has been for a long while a stronghold of desperadoes, who, using this hill as their sanctuary, terrorised the neighbourhood and looted and murdered the inhabitants of the surrounding country, pillaged caravans, &c. The Resident, Bornu, called upon Lieutenant Chapman to reduce the place. The operations throughout seem to have been well planned, and carried out with great skill and dash. Owing to the very difficult nature of the country the number of casualties on our side has been very heavy. I quote from a letter written by Mr. Hewby, Resident, Bornu, an official who has been seven years in Government employ in the Protectorate, and was for many years before that in the service of the Royal Niger Company Limited. He says: "I venture to state my deliberate opinion that no military operations have taken place during the last seven years in which the troops engaged had such genuine fighting to do under extraordinary difficult and nerve-trying conditions. With regard to these military operations, which involved the loss of 10 men killed and 40 wounded, I beg to offer my opinion that the Officers and men engaged are entitled to any reward open to them, and I should be glad if the Commandant could be informed of my full appreciation of the energy and resource of Lieutenant Chapman commanding the operations."

The Chibuk Hill is absolutely honeycombed with caves, and there are subterranean passages, some of which were nearly a mile in length. Almost all the fighting was at very close quarters. The operations under Lieutenant Chapman lasted from November 12th, 1906, to December 4th, 1906; Lieutenant Wolseley was at Chibuk from December 22nd, 1906, till February 17th, 1907. By a careful system of picquetting the various water supplies, he eventually forced the enemy to capitulate. During this time he lost 1 man killed and about 10 wounded.

I would bring to your special notice the services of Lieutenant P. Chapman, 7th Royal Fusiliers. He conducted the operations with great skill and judgment. Lieutenant Chapman speaks in the highest terms of the coolness and gallantry of Lieutenant C. A. Chaytor, Yorkshire Light Infantry. This Officer in addition to being wounded received an arrow through his helmet, and a sergeant who was talking to him had his brains dashed out by an arrow.

The Officer Commanding is loud in his praise of the conduct of Mr. A. C. Parsons, the medical officer. In addition to the large number of wounded men whom he had to attend, he was also in charge of Lieutenant Burnett, Highland Light Infantry, who was in a critical condition with blackwater fever. Mr. Parsons was absolutely indefatigable in the performance of his duties.