

JEBEL MIRI PATROL.

Fiki Ali, the powerful Mek (or chief) of Jebel Miri, in the Nuba Mountains province, assumed a hostile attitude towards the Government, and his disaffection constituted a menace to the peace of the whole of the province. In April, 1915, the following force, under the command of Major H. J. Huddleston, the Dorset Regiment, was rapidly concentrated at Kadugli:—

- 1 Squadron of Cavalry.
- 1 Camel Maxim Section.
- 3 Companies of Camel Corps.
- 1 Company 7th Battalion.
- 1½ Companies 11th Sudanese.

A total of 46 officers and 1,007 rank and file.

On April 20th and the two ensuing days our troops attacked Jebel Tuluk and the surrounding hills, which were strongly held by Fiki Ali and his tribesmen. The attack was completely successful, and the enemy were driven out of their stronghold, a large number of prisoners being captured. Fiki Ali, with his immediate following, succeeded in effecting his escape, but after being hunted from place to place for several months eventually was compelled to surrender.

MONGALLA PATROL.

The inhabitants of Jebels Imatong, Lafite, and Garia refused to obey Government orders, and a force consisting of

- 1 Section of Artillery.
- 1 Company 9th Sudanese,
- 3 Companies Equatorial Battalion,

under the command of Major D. Percy-Smith, D.S.O., the Middlesex Regiment, was despatched from Torit in February, 1916, to punish these recalcitrant tribesmen and to restore order.

These operations lasted till the 13th March, when the rebels sent in peace envoys and agreed to submit.

The following small patrols were despatched in connection with tribal disturbances and incipient revolt against Government authority:—

December, 1914.

To restore order and protect friendly tribesmen in the Duk Fadiat district of Mongalla province.

To punish the Nuer tribesmen of the Lau district of the Bahr el Ghazal province, who had made an unprovoked attack on a mission station.

February, 1915.

To punish raiders in the Zeraf valley of the Upper Nile province (Guweir Nuer patrol).

March, 1915.

To punish the recalcitrant Sheikh of Abujok (Sobat-Pibor district).

August, 1915.

To reinforce Government authority in the Torit district of Mongalla province.

December, 1915.

To quell an incipient revolt, engineered by a local witch-doctor, amongst the Dumjol Dinkas of the Upper Nile province.

To demonstrate Government authority in the

Fauwil (Nuer) district of the Upper Nile province.

January, 1916.

To restore order amongst the natives of the Tabi Hills (Nuba Mountains province).

In addition to the foregoing, those sections of the frontier which were especially exposed to raids have been constantly patrolled. Throughout the winter of 1914-1915, and during the following summer, a complete system of land patrols along the Eastern (Red Sea) littoral was carried out by Camel Corps and Police, and proved very efficacious in preventing the establishment of hostile communications with the Arabian coast. Great credit is due to Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) C. E. Wilson, Governor and Commandant of Troops in the Red Sea Province, for his excellent organisation of these patrols.

Similarly, on the Western frontier, some six hundred miles of desert frontier was observed by a chain of Arab posts, which stretched from west of Halfa, in the north, to the S.W. limits of Kordofan, and afforded a measure of protection alike from Furs, Tuareg and Senussist raiders. In May last a small regular mounted force was also despatched to Dongola, whilst the Dongola and Halfa-Shellal reaches of the river were patrolled by gun-boats, the former manned by Egyptian Army Artillerymen and the latter by a detachment from the Royal Navy.

These patrols, although generally outside the sphere of active military operations, required a considerable organisation, and entail arduous service by the personnel employed. They have given proof on several occasions of their efficiency.

Military Operations in Darfur.

The Darfur Sultanate formed one of the chain of autonomous kingdoms extending across the centre of Africa, of which Abyssinia is now the sole independent survival. In 1874 its territory was invaded by Zubeir Pasha from the south and by Ismail Pasha Ayub from the east, and the Sultan—Ibrahim "Garrad," a lineal descendant of the famous Abd el Rahman el Rashid, Sultan of Darfur and Kordofan (1785-1799), who corresponded with Napoleon Bonaparte in Egypt—was deposed, and the whole country annexed to the Egyptian Sudan.

The Egyptian domination in Darfur was subsequently overthrown by the Mahdist revolt, and the region was partially administered by a series of Dervish "Emirs" until after the battle of Omdurman (1898), when Ali Dinar, also a descendant of Abd el Rahman el Rashid, escaped from the Khalifa and fled to El Fasher, where he succeeded in establishing his authority. In 1899 Ali Dinar, with the sanction of the then Sirdar (Lord Kitchener), assumed the government of the Sultanate, and was subsequently appointed the Sudan Government agent in Darfur, and required to pay a light tribute, which was rendered annually from June, 1901, up to the outbreak of the present war.

The knowledge of the local conditions in Darfur possessed by the Inspector-General (Baron Sir R. von Slatin), who for many years was the chief intermediary between the Government and the Sultan, greatly facilitated the establishment of good relations; and Ali Dinar's attitude and disposition were gener-