

March, 1918, Dio broke out into open revolt, and other chiefs in his neighbourhood began to render him active assistance.

Major Darwall's force concentrated on the river Lau early in April, and dividing into two columns proceeded to patrol the country and harass the enemy, destroying his villages and capturing his cattle. In one of these patrols Captain E. G. Lawton (East Surrey Regiment) was unfortunately speared by a single Dinka hiding among the cattle, and died of his wound before he could reach medical assistance.

Many casualties were inflicted on the enemy, about 5,000 cattle captured, and several villages and cattle camps destroyed. By the middle of May Dio was a fugitive without followers, and the operations were brought to a conclusion on the 16th. A few days later Dio came in, and this was followed on the 26th by the surrender of Chief Matiang.

The expedition was thus highly successful in spite of the very difficult conditions encountered, and there is little doubt that the punishment inflicted will have had a lasting effect on a part of the country, which has been for some time in a very unsettled state.

I am sending to Your Excellency a separate despatch on this patrol which describes the operations in detail.*

Government troops have on two occasions apart from the joint expedition with the French against Erbeimi on the North-west frontier of Darfur, co-operated with neighbouring Governments.

1. In 1917 the authorities in the French Congo asked the Governor, Bahr el Ghazel, for co-operation in disposing of a certain outlaw named Krikri, who, having evaded arrest for elephant poaching in the Congo, had collected a following and was raiding loyal chiefs. A force under Captain V. H. Fergusson (Scottish Rifles) proceeded to patrol the frontiers in case Krikri should attempt to break through into Sudan territory. He was finally arrested in April.

2. Expedition against the Turkhana Tribe.

This is a pastoral tribe situated in the Northern frontier of British East Africa in the vicinity of Lake Rudolf. They had for some time past defied the control of the British East African Government, and had been consistently raiding the peaceable tribes to the South and South-west. The British East African authorities placed the number of cattle looted in 1917 as high as 30,000 head, while the Uganda Protectorate had another claim of some 3,000 head. Abyssinian influence, and even participation in some of the raids, had been established, while the Donyro and Marille tribes had also been actively allied with the Turkhana.

As the provisional Sudan-Uganda boundary divides the Turkhana tribe in two, and it was felt that no action against the tribe would have lasting results unless punishment were inflicted upon the whole tribe simultaneously, it was

decided that the Sudan Government should co-operate with the British East African forces in the undertaking of the following objects:—

(1) The punishment and disarmament, in respect of firearms, of the Donyro, Marille and Turkhana tribes, and of any other native tribes resident in the military area who had shown hostility to the Government.

(2) The expulsion of Abyssinians from East Africa and Uganda Protectorates West of Lake Rudolf.

(3) The reduction of the military area to a state suitable for Civil Administration.

(4) The recapture of looted stock.

Concentration of the Sudan Force, under Major R. F. White (Essex Regiment), who, as senior officer later took command of the combined force, was completed on December 12th, 1917, at Ikoto, on the Sudan-Uganda border (Lat. 4° 05' N., Long. 33° 05' E.), and from there units moved across the border to Loyoro (Lat. 3° 20' N., Long. 34° 08' E.). The force was accompanied by the late Major H. T. C. Jones-Vaughan (Rifle Brigade) as Chief Political Officer. During the next five months columns operated both to the West in Uganda and to the East in British East Africa, the force eventually working across to the Western shore of Lake Rudolf and fighting several actions during this period.

An outstanding incident of the operations was the attack made by the Abyssinians on the column under Captain J. H. R. Yardley, D.S.O. (Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers), in the Lorusia hills (Lat. 4° 15' N., Long. 35° 20' E.) on May 27th, heavy casualties were inflicted and the Abyssinian force driven off. At the time of writing the participation of the Abyssinians is to undergo an official investigation on the spot by representatives of the British and Abyssinian Governments.

In June, 1918, the objects of the expedition having been attained, the Sudan force was withdrawn and a temporary chain of posts was established by the British East Africa authorities.

Before reaching their stations in the Sudan, some units of the force were occupied in minor operations in different districts. One company, operating in the vicinity of Madial (lat. 3° 50' N., long. 33° 25' E.), in conjunction with Uganda Police, from 3rd to 5th July, encountered some resistance from the outlaws, of whom several were killed; and a section of the same company was again engaged in those mountains on 21st July. Action was also taken against some villages near Mengi rest house (four miles west of Liria, in Latuka district), where a policeman had been killed and some mails were stolen.

In addition to these more serious operations there have been some twenty-eight occasions in which troops have been turned out to prevent inter-tribal fights or to uphold Government authority. Such minor disturbances have occurred almost without exception on the remote confines of the country, and are without political importance. They do not call for individual mention, and I only refer to them to show that the business of garrisoning the country is not negligible even in the ordinary routine of administration.

I trust that the account I have given of military operations will not convey the impression that the prevailing tone in the Sudan has been one of unrest. The reverse has been the case. The fighting I have described has

* Not published in the London Gazette.