

fatigue overcome at once. . . . Why was there so long a halt at Prahsu, which is certainly not the most pleasant of places to spend a fortnight at?

Over and above the initial necessity of collecting food, ammunition and carriers (p. 52) the mere difficulties of the road were enormous. Towards the end, when nearing Kumasi,

we struggled along [says Captain Biss], holding on to each other in the inky forest-darkness. Nothing broke the deathlike silence, save the dropping of water from the trees overhead, and the squelch of filthy mud churned by three thousand feet. Soaked with rain, the column was forced at times to wade waist deep in water. The exhausted carriers fell out by dozens, one even died.

As for the fighting, it was magnificent, but at first resulted only in a succession of reverses which "would have daunted any man not possessed of the indomitable pluck of our Commandant. With him it was otherwise; he only laboured on the harder." When the advance guard at Kwisu was joined, "one's first impressions were that one had walked into a field hospital by mistake. Every third man one saw had some part of him tied up." The casualties of the expedition are believed to have made a record; out of 152 Europeans, 9 (all officers) were killed in action, 7 died from disease, 52 were wounded, and 54 invalided from wounds and sickness. The casualties of the native force (Sikhs and Hausas) were nearly 800 out of 2804, besides 102 who died of disease.

The book is simply written, but inspiring and suggestive. The meaning of Empire is strikingly illustrated by such passages as these:

British soldiers were at this time out of the question on account of the war in South Africa.

. . . the Transvaal War was the chief reason why this particular time was selected by them. Their enormous stores of arms and ammunition testify to the rising having been long premeditated.

On the 22nd we were all delighted to hear of the relief of Mafeking (by wire at Ogbomosho!)

We heard (at Prahsu), for the first time, of the war in China and the advance on Peking of the Allied forces.

The "weary Titan" is still afoot, it seems, and reaches her