

*LIEUT. COLONEL FC BRYANT CMG CBE DSO GOLD COAST
REGIMENT & THE SHORT CAMPAIGN IN TOGO AUGUST 11 TO 26
1914.*

BY KEITH STEWARD FRGS

=====

Some four years ago, Major Eric Lanning MBE FSA (3rd battalion Gold Coast Regiment 1939-46), brought to my attention the name of Lieutenant George Masterman Thompson of the same regiment, who was killed in Togo, West Africa on August 24 1914. Lanning thought there might be an interesting story to tell, the details of which had been overlooked for ninety years. He was correct: there are four major points of interest that have not hitherto been analysed sufficiently by historians.

First was the incredible personality of the officer who commanded the assault on Togo. The second was the largely overlooked bravery of the young Lieut. Thompson. Third was the unrecognised sacrifice by African soldiers from the Gold Coast Regiment (GCR) and the Tirailleurs Senegalaises serving under French officers. Fourth was the unusual degree of cooperation that existed between the British and French officers at company level. Sadly, this was not repeated during the Cameroon's campaign of 1914-16. The factual narrative of the Togo campaign is authoritatively described in the Official History¹ and the 'History of the Royal West African Frontier Force'.² This paper concentrates on material not contained in these two sources.

When Great Britain declared war on Germany on August 4 1914, the Governor of the Gold Coast colony, the officer commanding the Gold Coast Regiment and his second in command were absent on UK long leave. Indeed most of the colony was still on a peacetime footing; telegraph offices for example were still routinely closed for the night. Most army officers and colonial servants felt secure because the plans for the defence of the Gold Coast were thought to be comprehensive. The defence document³ was thought to be a masterpiece of military staff work with prepared plans for headquarters staff and the distribution of troops and their armament. Detailed instructions were provided for the officer commanding at seventeen different posts within the colony. The

¹ 'Military Operations, Togoland & the Cameroons', by Brigadier-General FJ Moberly CB CSI DSO psc, pub 1913 & reprinted in the 1980's by The Imperial War Museum & The Battery Press Inc, Nashville.

² Colonel A Haywood CMG CBE DSO and Brigadier FAS Clarke DSO psc, pub Gale & Poulden Ltd., 1964.

³ NA (UK) CAB11/107 Defence Scheme for the Gold Coast, revised 1913.

permanent heads of civilian departments also had their specific orders. This was all woven into one integrated programme, with separate schemes for fighting the French or the Germans according to the particular circumstances.

The geo-political situation was that the Gold Coast was a British colony in West Africa; to the west the Ivory Coast was a French colony; to the east was Togo⁴ under German jurisdiction. Further east was Dahomey (French) and Nigeria (British). The strategic importance of Togo was its central position to allied territory (British and French) and its having a powerful wireless transmitter at Kamina capable of communication with Europe. Some of the senior officials anticipated hostilities and on July 31, Captain FC Bryant⁵ temporarily commanding the Gold Coast Regiment reported that mobilisation was completed.

Bryant was not the officer to be bound by existing orders if (sic) he considered them irrelevant to the real needs of the situation. Recognising that the existence of Kamina station made the original deployment plans obsolete, he ordered new dispositions of forces. Three companies were ordered to concentrate at the railhead at Kumasi and two supported by a 2.95 inch gun at Ada.⁶

In Captain Bryant's opinion, it mattered very little whether the Germans retained control of Togo or not. The key factor was the wireless transmitter at Kamina which could contact Berlin and coordinate German attacks on Allied shipping in the eastern Atlantic. Captain Bryant was also sceptical about the adequacy of the plans for the defence of the colony. He later noted rather cynically while in receipt of retirement pay in 1926 that:

There was a very, very secret book-just one copy-stowed away in a very very (sic) secret safe of the O.C. Gold Coast Regiment at Kumasi. There were only two officers at the outbreak of war, who (sic) had ever seen the book. I cannot remember its name right now, but it was compiled by the Imperial Defence Committee, and it was full information as to what steps the senior military commander in the Gold Coast should take, were the Gold Coast invaded by a foreign power. Unfortunately, no mention was made in this volume as to what steps should be taken should the Gold Coast Regiment wish to assume the offensive and invade foreign territory.⁷

⁴ It is generally accepted that it was Togoland until 1908, thereafter Togo.

⁵ Colonel Frederick Carkeet Bryant CMG CBE DSO Legion d'Honneur (4th class) RA, 2nd Lieut. Dec 1898, Lieut. Feb 1901, Capt May 1907, attached Gold Coast Regt., Sept. 1910, Major Sept. 1914, attached BEF 1915, served France until 1919 (despatches DSO OBE), retired pay temp Lieut. Colonel 1920, Provost Marshal Northern Command 1939, Provost Marshal Middle East Forces 1940-5 as temp Colonel (despatches CBE).

⁶ 'Army Quarterly' July 1974 'The First Shots of the Great war, the Anglo-French conquest of Togo' by Eric J Grove pp 308-323.

⁷ 'The Capture of Togoland', by Colonel (sic) FC Bryant CMG DSO, pub 'The Cavalry Journal' Vol. XVI (1926) pp. 141-155.

A sub committee of the Committee of Imperial Defence met on August 8 and authorised the movement of troops from Secondee to Quittah with the proviso: 'If local information leads you to believe no undue risk, proposal approved preferably making sea passage by night.' This decision was revealed to the Colonial Secretary. On August 9, the Colonial Office telegraphed Mr WCF Robertson⁸ (acting governor), that he was to instruct Captain Bryant to move in cooperation with the French commander against Kamina.⁹ A joint British and French force should occupy Togo with Captain Bryant in command on a temporarily higher rank. France said that it could supply immediately 450 Tirailleurs Senegalese, eight officers under Major Maroix and twenty European NCO's and two mountain guns.

On the 6 August, unbeknown to Robertson, Bryant had sent the officer commanding at Ada¹⁰ under a flag of truce to Lome to demand the surrender of Togoland (sic). It appeared that Bryant had learnt that the French in Dahomey and the north were anxious and ready to cooperate with us [the Gold Coast Regiment] in an offensive: this had decided him to clear up the attitude of the Germans.¹¹

A wireless message intercepted in clear from the German Governor of Togo to Berlin on August 7, revealed that the Germans would not surrender, but would withdraw from Lome on the coast to Kamina 120 miles inland. This was to defend the vital wireless transmitter installation. Reinforcements for Captain Barker were soon on the way and Captain (now temporary Lieutenant Colonel) Bryant left Accra after dark and in dense fog on August 11 on board the "SS Elele". Disembarkation at Lome commenced at 8 a.m. the next day and due to previous arrangements made by Major JJF O'Shaughnessy, Deputy Director of Army Signals & Railways¹² and the work done by Captains Minto¹³ and Yardley,¹⁴ all stores were ashore by 4 p.m. The total British strength was the Gold Coast Regiment comprising 16 British officers,

⁸ Sir William Charles Fleming Robertson KCMG hon. LLD (Malta) BA, acting Governor as Colonial Secretary Gold Coast 1899-1915, Colonial Secretary Gibraltar 1915-17, Lieutenant Governor Malta 1917-25, Governor & CinC Barbados 1925-32.

⁹ *Military Operations, Togoland & the Cameroons* Ibid p 24.

¹⁰ Captain Edward Barker Middlesex Regt., 2nd Lieut. Sept 1901, Lieut. Jan 1904, served in South Africa 1900-1, employed WAFF Oct 1904 to Dec 1908 and from Jan 1910.

¹¹ *The History of the RWAFF* Ibid p 98.

¹² Major JJF 'O'Shaughnessy, London Cable Telephone Company, a territorial officer of the Royal Engineers with war service in South Africa 1900-2 (Queen's medal with 3 clasps, King's medal with 2 clasps), Engineer in Chief Gold Coast 1920.

¹³ Captain R Minto was Messrs Elder Dempster & Co's agent at Sekundi and had accompanied Lieut. Colonel Bryant.

¹⁴ Captain Yardley commanded the "SS Elele", British & African Steam Navigation Co (built in 1913 and sunk by enemy action in 1917).

seven BNCOs and 533 African other ranks: 34 British civil servants and civilian volunteers; 50 African police and some 2000 carriers.¹⁵ Kamina lay 120 miles inland through tropical jungle with not much in the way of metalled roads and a railway that was still in German hands as far as rolling stock was concerned. Little resistance was encountered by the Allied forces at Lome, Kete, Krachi and Togblekove. The Germans mounted raids on the advancing forces using the railway to 'hit and run' until August 16, when a successful small action at Lili River led to the surrender of two German trains.

The Germans had prepared an entrenched position just north of the Khra River; on August 22 a combined British and French force moved in two columns. On the right following the railway, were the Pioneer Company and half of 'G' Company 1/GCR with Captain Caistaing's detachment of Tirailleurs Senegalaise. The Pioneer Company was to hold the front while the remainder of the column turned the enemy's flank.¹⁶

It was at this point that the different policy adopted by the German military produced results. The Germans had three machine guns per company¹⁷ (to the British one, the French had even fewer) and this superior firepower was to be the deciding factor. It was also Lieutenant Thompson's first substantial action. Unfortunately, he had no senior and more experienced officer present to counsel caution on making a frontal assault on entrenched machine positions.

As the half of 'G' Company under Lieutenant GM Thompson¹⁸ consisted of only twenty two rifles, Captain Caistaing placed seventeen Senegalese under his orders. The combined party, leading the advance against the enemy's left worked their way round through the bush until, about 11 a.m., when they were checked by heavy rifle and machine gun fire from well-constructed trenches on the German flank. Here they held their ground for about five hours, until Lieutenant Thompson judged that the enemy's fire was slackening as a result of the British [and French] response, whereupon, he led his men in an assault well supported by Captain Caistaing with the remainder of the Senegalese. But the enemy machine guns had not been greatly affected; and in spite of the great gallantry they displayed, the attackers were brought to a standstill fifty yards from the enemy trenches.¹⁹

Lieutenant Thompson, Lieutenant Guillmart and many African other ranks were killed and wounded. The seventeen Senegalese soldiers allocated to Lieutenant Thompson were all killed or wounded except one.

¹⁵ Moberly, *Ibid* p26.

¹⁶ Moberly *Ibid*. p 36

¹⁷ 'West Africa, seizing the German Colonies', by David Chandler, *The War in Africa, a History of the first World War Volume 1, No 13* pub BPC Publishing Ltd., 1970 pp 362.

¹⁸ Lieutenant George Masterman Thompson, born Feb. 21 1890 in Natal, commissioned into the Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment) Sept. 1909, Lieutenant Sept 1912, seconded to the WAFF in October 1913.

¹⁹ Moberly *Ibid*. p36

*The positions of the bodies of the twelve Senegalese showed that they had stood faithfully by the young British officer whose safety they believed had been entrusted to their care. It was thought fitting to bury them in graves around that of Lieutenant Thompson.*²⁰

'I' Company had meanwhile managed to work their way around the enemy's right flank. Under heavy machine gun fire the whole way, they were finally forced to withdraw due to insufficient strength to risk another attack and the oncoming dusk. In the morning, it was discovered that the Germans had abandoned their secure positions. Their strength was later ascertained at 60 Europeans with 400 African soldiers. Allied casualties were two officers and twenty one African soldiers killed two officers and 48 African soldiers wounded. This was seventeen percent of the forces engaged.

The three German machine guns, well concealed and skilfully handled by German ranks, had fired many thousands of rounds and contributed largely to the successful defence. The effect on the men of the W.A.F.F., who were facing machine gun fire for the first time, had been distinctly demoralising, and had called for the highest qualities of leadership on the part of their British commanders.²¹

*Lieutenant Colonel Bryant's*²² *despatch is long and detailed; the list of those officers brought to the Acting Governor's attention for favourable mention is also long and detailed. The very surprising omission is Lieutenant Thompson; had he been cautioned about unnecessary casualties and did he disobey orders by attacking machine guns from the front? It is unlikely that we shall ever know. The surviving officers of 'I' Company receive fulsome praise; particularly Captain HB Potter, commanding 'I' Company GCR.*²³

I cannot speak too highly of the soldierly qualities and initiative displayed by this officer. It was due to his skilful and gallant handling of his company, first at Agbelulfoe and again at Chra that the enemy was kept in a state of alarm²⁴

*Other officers also received their commendations in the despatch: Lieutenant HB Collins*²⁵ *of 'I' Company is described as a "gallant and*

²⁰ *The graves are still there in a good state of maintenance (I have seen photographs taken in 2001 by Michael Rimmer, who teaches in Togo). They are now tended by the War Graves Commission.*

²¹ *Moberly Ibid. p 37.*

²² *NA (UK) WO32/5788 report to Lieut. Colonel RA de B Rose, Atakpane 29 August 1914.*

²³ *Lieutenant Colonel Harman Barnes Potter DSO, East Kent Regt., 2nd Lieut. Jan 1901, Lieutenant July 1904, Captain July 1912, Major Jan 1916, Lieut. Colonel March 1917, WAFF 1917.*

²⁴ *Bryant to Rose Ibid. paragraph 54.*

²⁵ *Major Hamilton Stratford Collins DSO, Shropshire Light Infantry and Army Service Corps, 2nd Lieut. Oct 1906, Lieutenant March 1909, Captain June 1915, Major Dec 1918. Curiously, the Jan. 1919 Army List shows a DSO entitlement & a SLI reference; the Quarterly Army List Jan. 1919 shows*

skilful leader”, Lieutenant L St L Blakeney²⁶ ‘I’ Company as a ‘gallant officer who has shown marked ability’. Colour Sergeant Gething²⁷ of ‘I’ Company receives high praise for gallantry and for “assuming the duties of a commissioned officer.”²⁸ In total, another twenty-three British Officers; BNCOs and British civilians were singled out for mention. Colonel Bryant’s staff officer Captain CG Hornby²⁹ received the Military Cross, while Bryant was promoted to substantive major³⁰ and made a Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George.

There is no record in this despatch of the good work and gallant deeds performed by the African NCOs and Private Soldiers of the GCR. This was most unusual, as most battle despatches from West Africa acknowledge the bravery of African troops from the 1880’s. Indeed such was the strength of feeling among the military that the Colonial Office was persuaded to award its own Distinguished Conduct Medal in 1901. It is just possible that Colonial Bryant was one of a very small minority of British officers who failed to respect the African soldiers under his command. Lieutenant Thompson’s bravery was however recognised by the French government with the award of the Croix de Guerre with Palme.³¹ His death plaque is in the Scottish Military Museum in Edinburgh Castle.

A subsequent examination of the Gold Coast Colony records of the period revealed a fascinating story of human frailty not included in either the regimental history or the official history of the campaign. Lieutenant Colonel Bryant, although commissioned on December 23 1898, had completely missed the South African War of 1899-1902. He had served in the Gold Coast since September 1910, but there had been no actions to justify the award of medals. Officers junior to him had campaign ribbons

no DSO reference & a secondment to the ASC & as ADC to Brig. General Guggisberg, Governor of the Gold Coast.

²⁶ *Lieutenant Leslie St Ledger Blakeney, Lancashire Fusiliers, 2nd Lieut. April 1910, Lieutenant July 1914 was killed in the Cameroons and is listed on the war memorial at Kumasi in Ghana.*

²⁷ *Lieutenant William Berford Gething, previously No 1665 Sergeant in the Rifle Brigade.*

²⁸ *Bryant to Rose Ibid. Paragraph 54.*

²⁹ *Lieut. Colonel Cecil Godfrey Hornby OBE MC, 2nd Lieut. April 1903, Lieutenant Feb 1905, employed with the WAFF from Jan 1911. The OBE was for services in East Africa with the Gold Coast Regiment. He died on his return to the Gold Coast and his name is on the war memorial at Kumasi.*

³⁰ *‘The Great War in West Africa’, by Brigadier General Edward Gorges CB CBE DSO, pub Hutchinson & Co (Publishers) Ltd., p 56.*

³¹ *This is the highest category of the award only awarded at Army (4 star) level; it may be approximated to the British Military Cross, but it was awarded in much greater numbers. Two million C de G were awarded during WW1; if one assumes that the highest category was awarded 10% of the time, then there were 200,000 then this may be compared to the 22,000 MCs awarded. French air aces, were awarded a C de G with palme for every enemy plane shot down; some had 30, 40 & indeed 50 palmes. In order to avoid a ribbon hanging at knee level, a gold palme was instigated to replace five bronze awards.*

on their tunics. A reasonable interpretation was that he boldly seized the opportunity to distinguish himself while Major RA de B Rose³² (his senior officer) was absent. Bryant's clear objective was to achieve independent command by moving his troops outside the colony and away from the Governor's authority as commander-in chief local forces. The Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Right Hon. Lewis Harcourt MP³³ telegraphed on August 19, to say that Major Rose would assume command upon his arrival in Togo. On receiving this despatch Lieutenant Colonel Bryant proceeded to question its validity. He then asked if he had been guilty of an error.³⁴

Lieutenant Colonel Bryant is a soldier with a good deal of dash. He is evidently quite unfitted by experience or temperament to occupy any position of administration. As his position in Togo is that of an administrator rather than a soldier, I should think that his removal at an early stage is important.³⁵

The next item in the records is the court-marshal of the civilian Chief Transport Officer, Mr Frederick Migeod for not releasing ten cases of whiskey and 28 cooking pots' immediately and without the proper requisitions'.³⁶ Mr Migeod had been in the Gold Coast since 1898³⁷ and to subject him to court martial by junior officers was preposterous. To make matters worse, Mr Migeod was placed under the close guard of African soldiers. This was viewed as an insult in 1914. The Governor, Sir Hugh Clifford³⁸ had meanwhile returned to the Gold Coast and resumed control of the colonial administration. Sir Hugh's approach was

³² Colonel Richard Aubrey de Burgh Rose CMG DSO & bar, Legion of Honour (Officer). 2nd Lieut. April 1900 (from Militia). Lieutenant July 1900, South Africa War 1899-1902 Queen's medal with 3 clasps, King's medal with 2 clasps, Captain April 1904, employed WAFF April 1906 to August 1910 and from October 1911. He commanded the Gold Coast Regiment from August 1914 until his retirement in 1922.

³³ 1st Viscount Harcourt 1916, PD DL MP (Lab) 1904-11, Baron Nuneham cr, Secretary of State for the Colonies 1910-15.

³⁴ NA (UK) CO96/548 Gold Coast document No 39122 of October 10 1914.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ NA (UK) CO96/549 Gold Coast document No 47035 of November 28 1914.

³⁷ Frederick William Hugh Migeod FRGS FRAI, entered the Royal Navy in 1889, Asst Paymaster 1893, resigned 1898; Transport Officer WAFF Sept. 1898; Supervisor of Customs Gold Coast May 1900; Ashanti FF (medal); Head of Transport Dept., Gold Coast from Sept. 1901. [This was not the first time that Mr Migeod had tangled with the military; his name appears in correspondence concerning Captain EGM Short (formerly Leinster Regt.) when both were appointed as Transport Officers WAFF Captain Short by Colonel J Willcocks CMG DSO & Migeod by the Colonial Office]. Publications include: 'Mende Language', 'The Languages of Africa', 'and Earliest Man' and 'Across Equatorial Africa'.

³⁸ Sir Hugh Clifford GCMG GBE FRGS, joined the Malay Civil Service in 1883, Resident at Pahang 1890-9 (took a leading part in suppressing the 1892 rebellion), Colonial Secretary Trinidad & Tobago 1903-7, Colonial Secretary Ceylon 1907-12, Governor Gold Coast 1912-19, Governor of Nigeria 1919-25, Governor of Ceylon 1925-7: the son of Major General Sir Henry Clifford VC KCMG CB. he was a prolific author of both fiction and non-fiction.

sufficient to prompt Mr JFN Green³⁹ at the Colonial Office to remark: “I must confess to some suspicion that had Sir H Clifford been at Accra on August 5, Kamina might (there) still be to take?”⁴⁰

Mr Migeod was not going to let his embarrassment pass without an attempt at revenge. On October 9, after his release from close arrest, he sent an indignant letter to Sir Hugh Clifford in an attempt to obtain financial compensation. He asked the Governor’s permission to seek redress of £5000 in the courts of the colony. Sir Hugh referred the matter back to the Colonial Office, where there was a strong reluctance to accommodate this request by Migeod. Mr JEW Flood,⁴¹ a second class clerk wrote; “I do not think it advisable that such an action should be brought: as the governor says we don’t want this dirty linen washed in public.”⁴² Major F Jenkins,⁴³ Staff Officer for the West African Frontier Force (WAFF) at the Colonial Office took a different line:

See Army Regulations Sec 49; Rules of Procedure 105 & sequel. If troops were on active service on September 16 and Mr Migeod was under Lieut. Colonel Bryant’s orders, the latter could convene a FGCM (Field General Court Martial).⁴⁴

Judging this report by 21st Century standards, it rather seems that Mr Migeod was making a big fuss about something best forgotten. However, in 1914 and particularly in the Colonial Service abroad, almost everybody assumed ‘airs and graces’ and a social position rather higher than they might have achieved at home. With servants doing all the housework and a small army of African clerks in the office, British officials had a lot of time to indulge in politicking.

The Colonial Office obtained legal advice from Mr JS Risley⁴⁵, who wrote, “I think an action would fail”. Mr WD Ellis,⁴⁶ a principal clerk suggested an offer of £250 compensation.⁴⁷ The Assistant Private

³⁹ Mr JFN Green BA, 1st class clerk at the Colonial Office; principal clerk March 1916; he does not make “Who’s Who” as unusually for his grade he did not receive an honour.

⁴⁰ NA (UK) CO96/549 Gold Coast document No 39122.

⁴¹ Mr John Ernest William Flood CMG, served in the Army 1917-18, 1st class clerk at the Colonial Office 1919, Assistant Secretary 1926-37, Crown Agent for the Colonies 1918.

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ Lieut. Colonel Francis Jenkins CMG, Legion d’Honneur (officer) Coldstream Guards, served in South Africa 1899-1902 (Queen’s medal with 5 clasps, King’s medal), WAFF 1903-11 Kano Sokoto campaign Nigeria (medal & clasp), Staff Officer WAFF at the Colonial Office 1911-16, Nigeria Regt., 1916-19, Colonial Secretary Barbados 1919-21, Secretary Southern Province Nigeria 1921.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ Sir John Shuckburgh Risley KCMG CB, Principal Legal Advisor to the Colonial Office 1911-31.

⁴⁶ Mr Walter Devonshire Ellis CMG MA, Principal Clerk at the Colonial Office, Assistant Secretary 1920-31.

⁴⁷ Approximately equivalent to six months salary.

Secretary, Mr RD Furse,⁴⁸ Mr Harcourt⁴⁹ and the Under Secretary of State for the Colonial Office and Sir George Fiddes⁵⁰ all approved the proposed idea. Mr Migeod would not be given permission to bring a civil case in the Gold Coast.⁵¹

The next rather embarrassing detail of Colonel Bryant's short period commanding the GCR, concerned the number of cases where it was thought that 'excessive' corporal punishment was inflicted upon African soldiers. Governor Clifford, whose authority Bryant had sought to evade did not let this pass without comment. On November 3 1914, he sent a letter and report to the Colonial Office. In paragraph 6, he wrote:

Lieut. Colonel Bryant, as you are aware, assumed command for no reasons which appears (sic) to me to be the least plausible that when he and the officers and men of the Gold Coast Regiment crossed the border into Togo, they forthwith were released from all responsibility to the Governor of the colony to which they belonged.⁵²

The report produced by Lieut. Colonel Bryant gave details of two Fields General Courts Martial. The first concerned Private Adimbandam Kanjarga 'I' Company GCR on August 17 1914. He was charged with "when on active service shamefully casting away his arms in the presence of the enemy". He was found guilty and sentenced to be shot. The President of the Court was Captain Harvey Goodwin;⁵³ the Prosecutor was Captain GC Hornby. Lieut. Colonel Bryant confirmed the sentence. Another soldier No 7091 Private Yambah Kusase of 'I' Company GCR received a sentence of five years penal servitude for, "in time of war quitting his guard without leave".⁵⁴

In trying to arrive at a judicious assessment of Lieut. Colonel Bryant's actions, it is necessary to weigh up the salient facts. Bryant would have been very conscious of his lack of active service experience when several other officers with the rank of captain had medal ribbons on their tunics.⁵⁵ He may also have understood Governor Clifford's reputation

⁴⁸ Sir Ralph Dolignon Furse KCMG DSO and bar served European War 1914-18, Assistant Private Secretary at the Colonial Office 1919-31, Director of Recruitment Colonial Service 1931-48.

⁴⁹ Mr Robert Vernon Harcourt MP (Lab) MA, 1910-18, late Lieut. RNVR and Parliamentary Correspondent 'Tribune'.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ Somebody later inserted these details into Colonel Bryant's personal file NA (UK) WO374/10360.

⁵² NA (UK) CO96/549 *Ibid.*

⁵³ Captain Harvey Goodwin DSO, Middlesex Regt., 2nd Lieut. July 1901 (Queen's medal for South Africa with 2 clasps), Lieutenant April 1903 (Operations of the Kissi FF medal with clasp), Captain January 1911 (with WAFF from May 1910), Major July 1916, Lieut. Colonel Dec. 1918.

⁵⁴ NA (UK) CO96/549 Enclosure in No 2 in Gold Coast Confidential of November 3 1914; from Officer commanding British Forces, Togoland [Lieut. Colonel RD deB Rose].

⁵⁵ Captain Francis John Eustace Archer (Norfolk Regt.,) South Africa 1899-1902 (Queen's medal with 3 clasps, King's medal with two clasps), attached King's African Rifles August 1902-August 1907

for caution. He was clearly sceptical of higher authority acting decisively and decided to do so himself. The elation of initial success, the exhaustion of active service command and his lack of staff training meant that antagonising Clifford was almost inevitable. He succeeded in imposing his authority over his brother officers when the basis of seniority was slight. Inevitably some officers would have advised waiting for the new commanding officer Major Rose. However, the combination of military uncertainty and Bryant's charisma prevailed and Acting Governor Robertson acquiesced.

It might be argued that the War Office had failed to appoint a sufficient number of experienced officers to the Gold Coast. Major Rose had only recently been appointed to the command of the regiment. Until June 1914, Brevet Major (local Lieut. Colonel) EM Panter-Downes,⁵⁶ Royal Irish Regiment had been the commanding officer. Major Rose had been the second in command and Captain Bryant in charge of the small artillery detachment. As the senior captain, he had assumed command and led the regiment to war without any previous active service experience. Bryant was certainly audacious, but his disregard for higher authority is probably the reason that he was not promoted again until 1940.⁵⁷ In March 1921, he was a Brevet Lieut. Colonel CMG DSO OBE, still trying to persuade the War Office to publish his Togo despatch of August 26 1914 in the "London Gazette".⁵⁸ Perhaps surprisingly Bryant was called out of retirement during World War Two as a Provost Marshal for the Middle East at the rank of Temporary Colonel. He was mentioned in despatches and his OBE was upgraded to a CBE.

The following list of casualties is taken from WFC Robertson's despatch No 11 of August 17 1914:⁵⁹

(Nandi punitive expedition medal & clasp); Captain Goodwin Ibid; Captain Bertie Elliebank Murray (King's Shropshire Light Infantry) attached King's African Rifles June 1907-June 1910 (Somaliland expedition 1908-10 medal with clasp), attached WAFF from June 1910-Sept. 1911. Captain Harman Barnes Potter (East Kent Regiment) had served in Aden 1903-4.

⁵⁶ *Brevet Major, local Lieut. Colonel Edward Martin Panter-Downes, The Royal Irish Regiment 2nd Lieut. October 1894, Lieutenant Sept. 1897 (South Africa 1899-1902, actions in Belfast, Lyndenbergh, Bethlehem, Wittebergen & Colesberg, Queen's medal with 3 clasps, King's medal with 2 clasps, twice mid & brevet of major), Captain Sept. 1901, employed WAFF from Sept 1909. He would seem that he decided to rejoin his parent regiment for the war against the Germans & was killed at Mons in August 1914.*

⁵⁷ *It would be correct to acknowledge that promotion in the Royal Artillery could be exceptionally slow as many officers distinguished themselves, numbers in any senior rank were limited and accelerating any officer promotion without the most distinguished credentials difficult.*

⁵⁸ *NA (UK) WO32/5789*

⁵⁹ *NA (UK) WO32/5788 Enclosure No 1 in Despatch No 11 of September 29 1914: the Acting Governor of the Gold Coast to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

Casualties at Lilikofi on August 15:

Killed	No 7057 Pte Bai, Pioneer Company GCR
Wounded	Temp Sergeant Major White PWD (late RE) severe ankle
	No 6300 Pte Appam Grunshi, Pioneer Co GCR, dangerously groin.

On the road to Agbeluhoi on August 16:

Killed	No 5344 Lance Corp. Bako Kanjarga 'I' Company, GCR
	No 5388 Mama Dagomba (2) 'I' Company, GCR
	Sergeant Togboi Kofi, GC Preventive Service
	Sergeant Amovi GC Preventive Service
	1 st Constable Monrovia GC Preventive Service
	2 nd Constable Lamakoy GC Preventive Service
Wounded	No 7014 Private Tia Karnjarga 'I' Company GCR, slightly abdomen
	No 4966 Private Jaja Grumah 'I' Company GCR, dangerously back.
	No 6614 Private Alassau (5) 'I' Company GCR, dangerously shoulder

In addition to the above, about 30 carriers were wounded most of them in the back.

Abolofie on August 16:

Wounded No 6839 Private Adamu Frafra Pioneers, leg slight

Belevein Nuatja and Chra River on August 21:

Died of wounds Corporal Samba Cheta, chest severe.

Khra River on August 22

Killed	Lieutenant GM Thompson 'G' Company GCR
	Sergeant Asuri Moshi
	No 5083 Lance Corp. Larsey Moshi, Pioneer Company GCR
	No 6539 Private Alaribo Grumah 'I' CVomp[any GCR
	No 6119 Private Salufu Kanjarga 'C' Company GCR
	No 6939 Private Wendi Moshi 'C' Company GCR
	Lieutenant Guillmart French Army
	14 Tirrailleres Senegalese

Missing	One French soldier
Died of wounds	One French soldier

wounded	Lieut.HS Collins (Shropshire Light Infantry),GCR: hip/ knee severe
	Lieutenant AI Macpherson (Suffolk Regiment) GCR: face slight
	No 6735 Private Atchiri 'C' Company GCR: hip severe
	No 6402 Private Awobeng Grunshi 'C' Company GCR :leg severe
	No 7063 Private Natarhoma Dagomba 'C' Co., GCR: chest slight.
	No 6637 Private Dojo Nawa Busanga 'C' Co., GCR: finger slight.
	No 6214 Athassan Dagomba (5) 'I' Company GCR: arm slight.
	No 6117 Lance Corporal Finsi Moshi 'C' Company GCR: face slight
	No 4897 Private Obidiah Kanjarga 'I' Company GCR: arm severe
	No 4945 Sergeant Hassan Bazaberiene 'I' Co., GCR: shoulder severe
	No 4705 Lance Corporal Jekeda Jeru Pioneers GCR: shoulder severe
	No 6686 Private Tukulu Zugu GCR Pioneers: neck severe.
	No 5505 Private Yussef Effeh GCR Pioneers: arm severe.
	No 5817 Corporal Moviyama Moshi 'G' Co., GCR: elbow severe
	No 6659 Acting Lance Corp Adoya Moshi 'G' Co., GCR: arm severe
	No 6301 Private Nuaga Moshi 'G' Company GCR: hand slight.
	No 5547 Private Alando Moshi 'G' Co., GCR: hip & hand severe
	No 5321 Private Adama Moshi 'G' Company GCR: shoulder severe
	No 1207 (?) Alhadi Moshi 'G' Company GCR: hip slight
	No 411 GC Selfu Grumah : foot severe ⁶⁰
	No 5839 Sergeant Bumbio Dagarte Battery GCR: arm severe
	No 6114 Private Bathia Kampala Battery GCR; foot severe
	No 23 Headman Musa Wongara Batthery GCR: foot severe
	No 4633 Trumpeter Bremia Kanjarga Battery GCR: back slight

*French casualties*⁶¹

Wounded	Samba Keita B1-1125 (sic): gunshot chest slight
	Yoro Miriam 2340 l ier cl: gunshot left shoulder/right hand v. severe
	Adamba Bamba 3515: gunshot left shoulder, right hand/arm v. severe
	N'die Koni 3748: gunshot right shoulder/ left knee slight
	Baba Voli 291: gunshot right thigh/left knee severe
	Badie 413: gunshot sole of foot severe
	Aba N' gata 8604: gunshot right leg very severe
	N' gata Dei 3661: gunshot to right elbow severe
	Sambo Diallo 3456: gunshot scalp slight
	Boubou Taraore 1548: gunshot right shoulder/left arm very severe

⁶⁰ RSM Selfu Grumah stayed in the army and was steadily promoted through the ranks, he served with 3GCR in East Africa and Abyssinia in WW2; and was later posted RSM of the reinforcement battalion sent to India in 1944: [source Major Eric Lanning MBE FSA archive material].

⁶¹ NA (UK) WO32/5788 Despatch No ? Attachment F of Sept. 10 1914, from GEH Le Fanu, Medical Officer in Charge.

	Vanny Bdella 408: gunshot to scalp
	Demba So 2923: gunshot left shoulder slight
	Boli 406: gunshot left arm slight
	Bona Karouna 15748: gunshot skin (sic) very slight
	Demab Diallo 2160: gunshot shoulder severe
	Lagama Chi 6424: gunshot right shoulder slight
	Benie 407: gunshot left shoulder trifling
	Biram Lo 3805: gunshot forearm slight

*Officers and men mentioned in Temporary Lieut. Colonel Bryant's despatch:*⁶²

Captain CG Hornby, (East Lancs Regt.,) Staff Officer
 Lieutenant JV Earle C de Guerre,⁶³ (Notts & Derby Regt.,) Intelligence Staff (sic)
 Mr RS Rattray,⁶⁴ Asst. District Commissioner Ashanti
 Captain EC Spencer,⁶⁵ Supply & Transport Officer (possibly Gold Coast Volunteers).
 Mr Reynolds, Supply Officer
 Mr Beaham,
 Mr HD Gibson,⁶⁶ Acting Transport Officer
 Major SB Gosling,⁶⁷ Director of Army Signals & Railways
 Corporal Bernasconi, Government Telegraph Dept., Accra
 Mr Tucker, despatch rider
 Mr Wellacott, despatch rider
 Major JFF O' Shaughnessey RE, Deputy Director of Army Signals & Railways
 Lieutenant Guard, Gold Coast Volunteers PA to Major Shaughnessey
 Lieutenant Grealy, Special Railway Volunteers, Chief Construction Engineer
 Mr Stark (ex CSM RE), recommended for a DCM
 Mr Wilkins⁶⁸
 Corporal Bennett,
 Mr Withers
 Lieutenant Bullen, Gold Coast Volunteers as the Engineer Officer at the base
 Mr Scott, late of the Railway Pioneer Regiment
 Dr WW Claridge,⁶⁹ Senior Medical Officer Togo land FF.
 Dr G de P d'Amico,⁷⁰ for dressing the wounded under fire at Chara River

⁶² NA (UK) WO32/5788 Ibid.

⁶³ Lieutenant JV Earle is listed in the index of the Jan. 1919 & Jan. 1921 Army List for the Gold Coast Regt., page , but in fact his name is not included among the officers shown.

⁶⁴ Captain Robert Sutherland Rattray CBE DSc. (Oxon), served in South Africa 1901-2 as a trooper in the Imperial Yeomanry, Asst. Commissioner Gold Coast 1911, District Political Officer Anglo French occupation of Togo 1914-17 (MBE), flew (1928) the first plane to land in Kumasi (crashed). Rattray presented his damaged propeller to the Gold Coast Regiment RWAFF and it was displayed in the Officers' Mess; subsequently taken over by the Ghanaian Army. [It was still on the wall above the door from the two main anterooms in 2001 when I last visited Kumasi]. His publication's include: 'Hausa Folklore & Customs', 'Religion & art in Ashanti' and Ashanti Law & Constitution'.

⁶⁵ 2nd Lieutenant EC Spencer, Hon Captain Royal Berkshire Regt., Nov. 1916.

⁶⁶ Mr HD Gibson, appointed Nigerian Railways 1910, Asst. Traffic Superintendent 1913, Divisional Superintendent 1927, Superintendent of the Line 1932.

⁶⁷ Mr SB Gosling, Post Master General 1920.

⁶⁸ Possibly Mr John Wilkins, Inspector of Works, Grade 1 1932.

⁶⁹ Dr William Walton Claridge, MRCS Eng 1902, LRCP (Lond) 1902, Provincial Medical Officer Gold Coast 1920.

⁷⁰ Guido de Piro d' Amico MRCS Eng 1908, LRCP (Lond) 1908: a civilian doctor resident in Switzerland.

Dr R Mugliston,⁷¹ for dressing the wounded under fire at Chara River.
 Dresser Lamptey, (the same man who helped Captain FRB Parmeter in the Ashanti campaign of 1900-1)⁷²
 Lieutenant EG Wheeler (Hampshire Regt.), 'C' Company GCR Asst. Provost
 Marshal for Atakpane
 Captain Redfern, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Gold Coast Colony
 Mr HS Newlands,⁷³ Asst. District Commissioner Quittah (who had knowledge of German)

Copyright Keith Steward 2006

⁷¹ *Reginald Mugliston, MRCs Eng 1908, LRCP (Lond) 1908, FRS Trop Med. West African Medical Service 1908-1927/8.*

⁷² *'The Ashanti Campaign of 1900', by Captain CH Armitage DSO and Lieutenant Colonel AF Montanaro RA, pub Sands & Co., 1901 Appendix 3.*

⁷³ *Mr HS Newlands, District Commissioner 2nd class Gold Coast Colony 1920.*