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Map of Part of the Nassarawa Province, Northern Nigeria

Author(s): D. Cator

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I was greatly assisted in my work by Mr. H. W. B. Hamilton, who accompanied me.

The Western Australian Government also afforded every assistance.

MAP OF PART OF THE NASSARAWA PROVINCE, NORTHERN NIGERIA.*

By D. CATOR.

THE greater part of the area shown in the accompanying map is under the jurisdiction of Serikin Kwotto. It was close on one hundred years ago that the present chief's father, owing to some trouble at Keffi, it is said, left that place and founded Nassarawa, which is his place of residence. He was a great warrior, and gradually conquered all those within reach. Among others he devastated the kingdom of Kwotto whose chief lived at Panda, near Katakwa, now only a very small village, and from that took his title of Serikin Kwotto. He further subjugated the Koton-karifi district, which was an offshoot of the Kwotto kingdom, and also took his armies across the Benue, and there is little doubt he would have conquered the Ata of Idah had not the advent of Europeans put a stop to his advance.

Umoru, the first Serikin Kwotto, is stated to have reigned from 1818-58. He was succeeded by his eldest son Amadu (1858-78), when his only remaining brother, Mahomadu, followed; he is now (1910) fifty-seven years of age.

The country immediately to the south and south-west of Nassarawa is very sparsely populated, but that part further to the west and lying north of Umaisha is rapidly filling up again, for large numbers of Bassas who fled across the Benue during the unsettled times are returning.

Along the Benue and round Katakwa especially there is a good deal of low swampy ground, very bad in the wet season. Besides the Afo hills, which are extremely rough, there is very hilly country between Ara hill and Gwaragwada; in other parts hills may be met with, but on the whole most of the roads elsewhere are fairly easy travelling.

There are several tribes to be found here, of which the Bassa and Kwoto (= Igbira)† are probably the most numerous; others are Afo, Agatu; Filani, Gade, Gwari, Gwari-n-yama, and Hausa.

The boundary with the Koton-karifi division has lately been delimited, and is here shown; that part was till recently in Kabba Province, but it has now been transferred to Nassarawa Province.

* Map, p. 752.

† This Igbira tribe must not be confused with the Egbira tribe in Kabba Province, whose country was mapped by the writer (see *R.G.S. Journal* for March, 1907).

The survey is based on the three known points of Keffi, Loko, and Lokoja, the telegraphic longitudes of which were determined in 1905-1906 by Captain R. Ommanney, R.E., and Captain G. F. Evans, R.E. Bearings with prismatic compass were taken every quarter of a mile on every road traversed; the routes thus plotted were adjusted by the help of latitudes obtained in various places by meridian altitudes of north and south stars. Plane-tableing was also done to a small extent from Nassarawa to Keffi.

VOYAGE OF THE S.Y. "NIMROD."*

SYDNEY TO MONTE VIDEO VIA MACQUARIE ISLAND, MAY 8—JULY 7, 1909.

By Captain J. K. DAVIS.

ACTING under instructions from Sir E. Shaekleton, an attempt was to be made to locate the positions of some charted islands marked "doubtful," viz. (1) Royal Company islands; (2) Emerald island; (3) Nimrod islands; and (4) Dougherty island. The approximate charted position of each of these groups is shown on diagram (map). In the event of being able to find any of these "doubtful" islands, we were to land (if possible); obtain their precise positions and main features, etc. In the event of no land being visible at or near the charted position, deep sea-soundings were to be taken and vicinity searched.

Meteorological observations were to be taken at intervals of two hours during the voyage, and these are of some interest, as ships do not usually traverse these latitudes in the months of May and June.

With reference to each of the charted island groups, viz. Royal, Emerald, Nimrod, and Dougherty, I propose to lay before the members very briefly:—

- (a) Short extracts from the reports furnished by navigators of having sighted such an island.
- (b) The steps taken during our voyage to ascertain the existence (or non-existence) of each island or group.
- (c) Short extracts from reports of navigators who have tried to locate the positions, but failed in the attempt.

Having placed before you such evidence as I have been able to collect from reports, and, with your kind indulgence, narrated the steps taken on this voyage to locate the positions of the doubtful islands, I will give a brief description of our visit to Macquarie island, where we spent a few days (May 26-30, 1909).

The *Nimrod* carried five Admiralty chronometers, which had been previously rated (April, 1909) at the Sydney observatory. Observations, at sea, were taken by three independent observers (weather permitting).

The grey skies and short hours of daylight during the southern winter are not favourable for search work. It was no unusual occurrence to be forty-eight hours without getting a glimpse of the sun, or being able to take stellar observations. Very heavy seas and strong winds (often blowing with hurricane force) rendered

* Read at the British Association, Sheffield, September, 1909.

NORTHERN
Part of
NASSARAWA
by
D. CATE
1909

Scale 1:500,000 or 1 Inch

Reference

Tele
Carr
Heights in f

Note

This map is from a compa
survey, adjusted to fixed
determined.

NIGERIA.

C.

JRNAL 1910.

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