

Tambi Eyongetah/Robert Brain

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Much of the resistance which occurred among societies in the interior was caused by the refusal to work voluntarily on the southern plantations, because of the ill-treatment meted out to plantation workers and the high death rate of workers unaccustomed to the malarial zones. In Bangwa the German agent, Conrau, recruited a number of labourers for the southern plantations with the consent of his blood-brother, the Fontem chief Asunganyi. A large number died and the chief held Conrau responsible for the disappearance of his subjects. Conrau was imprisoned for a period during 1898, finally losing his life trying to escape. Again the German reprisals were severe and despite stout resistance on the part of the Bangwa *manjong* groups, they were defeated. Asunganyi fled from the Germans but was captured and sent into exile at Garoua. A station was set up at 'Fontemdorf' and one of the chief's sons, more amenable to the Germans, ruled in his stead.

Retaliation after these revolts was fearful. In November 1901, Pavel started his march from Tinto to Banyo to consolidate the effect of an earlier 1899 expedition to Adamawa and also to punish the Bangwa, the Mankon and the Bafut in preparation for the establishment of a military station in the Grassfields. Welcomed by the Bali and reinforced by Bali soldiers, Pavel laid waste to Bafut despite strong resistance. In the fighting 62 Bafut and 218 Mankon were killed, while many prisoners were taken who were sent south to work on the plantations.