

The cradles, &c., supplied to G-14 were somewhat slight, having been intended for 6-pounder battery. The bed for the gun had to be cut, to receive the larger circumference of the 12-pounder gun.

I have, &c.,

HILL WALLACE, Lieutenant-Colonel,  
Commanding 1st Division, Royal Artillery,  
Abyssinian Expeditionary Force.

No. 6.

(Lieutenant-Colonel Milward, Royal Artillery, to  
Brigadier-General Petrie, Commanding Royal  
Artillery, Abyssinian Field Force.)

Camp, *Belajo*,  
May 8, 1868.

SIR,

In compliance with the orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, I have the honour to submit the following report on the equipment, condition, and services of the Steel Mountain Batteries attached to the Division of Artillery under my command.

On my arrival at Zoolla on the 4th January, I found that the equipments, which had arrived from England some weeks previously in excellent condition, had been taken over by the officers commanding the 3d and 5th Batteries, 21st Brigade, and that some progress had been made towards fitting the pack-saddles and mounting the batteries on mules, which had been supplied from those in charge of the Transport Train. I attribute the rapid progress made in the fitting out of these batteries, in a great degree, to the exertions of Lieutenants Nolan and Chapman,

and the few non-commissioned officers under their command. These officers, with such small assistance as the exigencies of the Service could afford at that most difficult period of the campaign, had disembarked, unpacked, and arranged the whole of the equipments of two batteries; they had procured and taken charge of 200 mules, and on the arrival of the batteries from Bombay little was left to the Commanding Officers but to make the final arrangements to complete their batteries in a condition to take the field.

The mules supplied were all taken from those lately arrived from Suez,—for the most part Spanish. The manner in which these animals have done their work proves that they were of good quality, and only required constant care, good feeding, and careful packing, to ensure their thorough efficiency. I may, however, take this opportunity to observe that the very large Spanish mules do not keep their condition or carry their loads as well as those of moderate size. I have invariably observed that a few days of short rations threw them out of condition, which they did not recover as rapidly as could be desired.

Being of opinion that the scale of equipment laid down in the printed list supplied with the batteries was quite insufficient, I obtained your permission to draw up a proposal for an increase in the number of mules and the quantity of ammunition to be carried with each battery. I accordingly submitted the following as a sufficient scale of equipment to take into the field, and having received in due course the approval of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, it has been adopted throughout the campaign.

MULES.

Guns and Carriages.	Ammunition and Rockets.	Spare Carriages.	Wheels.	Forge.	Artificers' Tools.	Material for Repairs.	Mounted N. C. O's. and Trumpeters.	Spare.	Total.
18	61	1	2	1	1	6	3	20	113

AMMUNITION.

Projectiles.	In Ammunition Boxes.	In Reserve Boxes.	Total.
Common shell ... ..	168	Nil.	168
Shrapnell shell ... ..	144	32	176
Double shell ... ..	120	48	168
Case shot ... ..	72	20	92
Rockets ... ..	72	80	152
			604

The loads of ammunition were found to be too heavy to be carried conveniently; and it was found desirable to remove one shell from each box. It was also found necessary to reduce the weight of the rocket-cases by removing four from each, and to reduce the carriage-load by the weight of the wheels, which were placed on a separate mule. The scale of entrenching tools was quite inadequate for the probable requirements; and sufficient provision had not been made for the carriage of small articles, not easily enumerated, but none the less necessary in the equipment of a battery. Boxes were made

for the purpose, which were fitted to be carried on the top of certain loads, and arrangements were made to carry a sufficient supply of entrenching tools. These altogether necessitated a larger number of mules than was originally contemplated; and with the somewhat large proportion of spare animals necessary to meet the requirements of so peculiar a campaign, brought up the total number to 113.

In order to familiarize officers and men with the guns and ammunition entrusted to them, practice to a small extent was carried on at Zoolla; during which I found that firing with