

enemy was driven off, and descended into the valley of the Keiskamma;—it being then dusk, I returned and bivouacked for the night in the Zanooka valley—during these operations I saw nothing of any force from Fort Cox.

On the morning of the 28th instant, moving shortly after sunrise, I proceeded with the force towards Mount Macdonald, where I reached at 10 a.m., detaching the corps of levies into the valley of the Zanooka to intercept the enemy's cattle.

I observed small detached parties of the enemy at some distance, who descended into the valley of the Keiskamma, but I observed no troops or any force below in the vallies; the enemy made no show of resistance.

I proceeded with the Cape Mounted Rifles, and occupied the high point of the mountain at the head of the Ligny, while the levies passed down the Zanooka, and brought out about 350 head of cattle, chiefly cows and calves, all very poor. I returned with the troops along the ridges, leaving the two companies of the 91st Regiment to cover the return of the levies to the bivouack, which was done leisurely, leaving no part unscoured. While halted on the Amatola range, a shot was fired from a high point of the forest, by which, I regret to say, Captain Melville, of the George Levy, was severely wounded through the arm;—the troops all assembled from their several points of operations shortly after dusk.

I am of opinion, from the appearance of the cattle kraals, that the great body of the Kafir cattle have been sent away some time ago—there is no grass or herbage of any kind in the Amatola or Zanooka valleys, and not sufficient grass even for horses—the cattle captured yesterday are miserably poor and starved.

Late last evening a Hottentot from the rebel camp came in and surrendered; he brought me a message to say that a large body of the rebels would surrender in two days.

Having expended all my provisions, and there being no grass whatever for the horses, I returned to my camp this morning.

I have much pleasure in bringing to the Commander-in-Chief's notice, the active, zealous, and gallant conduct of the troops and levies during the three days' operations in the mountains and rugged passes of the Amatola and Zanooka ranges: a large tract of most difficult and intersected country was traversed by the troops.

The gallant attack made by the 74th Regiment under Lieutenant-Colonel Fordyce, upon the enemy's position, which it carried, surmounting every obstacle under a brisk and galling fire from the enemy, was my admiration, and the manner in which the Fingoes under their several commanders, advanced in the flanks, was most spirited.

The attack made by the levies under Captains Heathcote and Melville, and Captain Verity, who followed the enemy and drove him off his position on the Victoria heights, was most gallantly executed; and I have greatly to regret the loss of Captain Melville's services, I fear for some time.

To the officers commanding corps and detachments, Lieutenant-Colonel Fordyce, commanding 74th Highlanders, and commanding my first brigade; Lieutenant-Colonel Sutton, C.M.R. commanding my second brigade; Major Forbes, commanding the detachment 91st Regiment; and Major Somerset, C.M.R. commanding the cavalry, I am greatly indebted for their exertions and assistance.

To the officers commanding levies—Captain Stevenson, commanding first European levy; Captains Heathcote, Melville, and Hobbs, all commanding

their several corps of levies; as well as to Captains Cumbers, Verity, and Ayliff, commanding the Fingoe levies, I have to express my thanks and approbation.

Every care and attention was paid to the wounded by the medical officers in the field, Dr. Fraser, Dr. Booth, Dr. Barclay, and Dr. Black; and I beg in an especial manner to bring the gallantry and excellent conduct of all the officers, troops, and levies, under the Commander-in-Chief's notice.

It is not possible, when a series of operations are taken covering a large extent of mountainous and difficult country, to notice in any particular manner the conduct of individual corps where all have merited approbation, but I must on this occasion bring more particularly the 74th Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Fordyce, under the Commander-in-Chief's notice; this regiment being so recently landed from a long sea voyage, being at once brought into the field in the winter season, and having been early engaged against the enemy, and now a second time sharply engaged, ascending a high mountain under a galling fire, and carrying his position at every point.

I am not aware of what the enemy's loss was, the contiguity of the forest having given them every advantage of carrying off their killed and wounded: they were observed conveying them into the bush.

I have to return my best thanks to Lieutenant Jessie, my Deputy Quarter-Master-General; Lieutenant Bell, C.M.R. my Field Adjutant, and Lieutenant Green, my Aide-de-Camp, who rendered me every assistance.

I have, &c.

H. SOMERSET,  
Major-General.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Cloete, C.B., K. H.,  
Deputy Quarter-Master-General.*

I annex a Return of the killed and wounded:—  
74th Regiment.—3 rank and file killed; 1 officer, Lieutenant W. W. J. Bruce, and 9 rank and file, wounded.

J. A. FRASER, M.D.  
Surgeon, 74th Regiment.

Levies.—1 serjeant and 2 rank and file, killed; 1 officer, Captain Melville, and 4 rank and file, wounded—2 mortally.

ED. BOOTH, Surgeon,  
Levies and Burghers, 1st Division.

No. 2.

*King William's Town,  
July 1, 1851.*

SIR,

IN pursuance of your Excellency's instructions I moved from this station on the 24th ultimo, with the following force:—

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 6th Regiment .....         | 337 |
| 73rd Regiment.....         | 420 |
| Royal Marines.....         | 47  |
| Catty's Riflemen.....      | 51  |
| Cape Mounted Riflemen..... | 120 |
| Armstrong's Horse .....    | 80  |
| Swellendam Levy .....      | 250 |
| Clanwilliam Levy .....     | 330 |
| Fingoes .....              | 170 |

In all..... 2,055 men.

I entered the mountain range by Bailey's grave, and in the afternoon of that day I reached the Quilly Quilly River, where I bivouacked.

On the 25th ult. I moved a few miles higher up the Quilly Quilly.