

Armstrong gun over smooth-bored ordnance. The gun has done, and always will do, a great deal more than any other description of ordnance in the service, throwing the shell with greater precision, &c. There were forty time fuzes and 109 concussion fuzes expended; in all, 109 Armstrong shell.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. MERCER, Captain,
Commanding Royal Artillery.

To Major-General Pratt, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.
Commanding the Forces.

Admiralty, July 25, 1861.

THE following despatches have been received by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty from Commodore Seymour, C.B., the Senior Officer of Her Majesty's ships and vessels on the Australian station:

Pelorus, Auckland.

April 2, 1861.

SIR,

THE Naval Brigade under my command having this day returned to the "Pelorus," I beg to lay before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty a statement of the services rendered by Lieut. A. H. W. Battiscombe, Senior Lieutenant of this ship, prior and subsequent to his joining Her Majesty's ship bearing my broad pendant, and I most earnestly hope that their Lordships will deem them sufficient to entitle him to his promotion. His conduct on all occasions has been most gallant and meritorious, particularly at the disastrous affair near Puketakanere on the 27th of June, 1860, (when, after I was wounded, he succeeded to the command of the seamen and marines), at Kahili in October, 1860, and during the operations in the Valley of the Waitara, between the 29th December, 1860 and the 19th March, 1861. His name was brought forward in the general order issued by General Pratt, C.B., on that officer resigning the command to Lieut-General Cameron, C.B., and his qualifications as an Engineer recognized by Colonel Mould, Commanding Royal Engineers, in his report.

Before concluding this letter I wish also to recommend to their Lordships' favourable notice the Assistant-Surgeon of this ship, Mr. Robert Edwardes, who had medical charge of the Naval Brigade from the time of its landing to its re-embarkation.

He attended the wounded with the advanced skirmishers, under a heavy fire, on the 27th June, and his unremitting attention at all times, both in the field and in quarters, attracted the particular attention both of myself and of Mr. Mouat, C.B.,

the principal medical officer in the Taranaki field force.

I beg also to be permitted to express to their Lordships the gratification I have felt at the good conduct of Lieutenant J. C. M. Morris, R.M.A., and of Messrs. E. B. Wadlow and Charles F. Hotham, Midshipmen, the senior of their rank with the brigade.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) F. BEAUCHAMP SEYMOUR,
Commodore.

Extract from a despatch of Commodore Beauchamp Seymour, dated H.M.S. Pelorus, Auckland, New Zealand, 6th April, 1861, addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

"ON the afternoon of the 1st instant, the Naval Brigade embarked on board the "Niger." We reached the "Pelorus" on the afternoon of the 2nd instant; and it will be my duty to lay before their Lordships, in a separate communication, a statement of the services rendered by various officers of the Brigade during the last eleven months. The conduct of all has been most exemplary, and I have much pleasure in stating that that of the seamen and marines, as a body, has been remarkably good: of course there were exceptions, but they were comparatively few in number, and the good example set by the petty officers, especially by John Gibson, gunner's mate, Thomas Avent, supernumerary captain of the afterguard, and James Veale, boatswain's mate, had a beneficial effect on all.

"I should feel deeply gratified were their Lordships pleased to permit me to express their approval of these men's conduct; and also I beg to bring to their notice the names of John P. Fisher, captain of the maintop, seaman gunner (who has lost a leg in action, and will be sent to England by the earliest opportunity after he is in a fit state to be moved), and of James Costelle, coxswain of the launch, seaman gunner, who were the captains of the 8-inch guns in the advanced redoubts, and who invariably conducted themselves very much to my satisfaction."

Admiralty, July 25, 1861.

IN consideration of their services, as stated in the above despatch, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have been pleased to promote Lieutenant A. H. W. Battiscombe, of the "Pelorus," to the rank of Commander, and have ordered the name of Mr. Robert Edwardes, Assistant-Surgeon, to be noted for promotion on his passing the necessary examination.

The names of the other officers and men mentioned have also been noted.

C. PAGET.