

returned to their old position on the hill, where I ordered them to remain.

4. When Lieutenant Mann's party arrived, I pushed it forward to the hill overlooking Draaibosch, then I despatched the Mail Bags with the escort of 10 men that had joined me with Sub-Inspector Waring.

5. The escort got safely to Gray's Farm, rejoined before we reached Komgha.

6. I retired by the high ground the north of the road, the direction from which the attack was made; large bodies of Kaffirs were visible on the crests of the distant hills, mounted as well as footmen.

7. Major Moore states in para. 12, "that the firing was wild;" I would explain that some of the men engaged had never fired, and that others had only been put through a recruit's course, which was carried on at Athlone during winter months under great disadvantages.

8. I consider that Major Moore has underestimated the loss on the enemy's side on the 30th, as I heard to-day from reliable authority, that over 50 men are missing in the kraals from which this attack was made, in addition to many wounded.

9. Private McGreavy, one of the men said to be missing, reported himself at Kei Road with two men of Frontier Armed Mounted Police, on 1st instant.

10. Private McGranegan, the other missing man, reported that he felt weak; was allowed by Dr. McCartney to ride in the Scotch cart which accompanied the party; then the men formed for attack, he was ordered to fall in; no one can give any account of him after that.

11. I went out this morning with 80 men in direction of Draaibosch, in the hopes of recovering his body. I searched the kloof which sides for some distance round where the fight took place, but could find no trace of it.

12. I then proceeded to the scene of the skirmish of the previous day, and found the body of Policeman Giesse; it was interred on the spot, the service being read by Major Moore; the sons of the deceased, who had come up from East London, were present.

13. I consider Major Moore's skirmish on the afternoon of the 29th was of the greatest service, as it was undoubtedly the means of drawing off a large body of Kaffirs, who had posted themselves on the hill on this side of Draaibosch, with the intention of tracking a convoy of wagons outspanned there that morning from Kei Road. A commissariat horse belonging to Deputy Commissary General Strickland's train was captured, and they showed such evident signs of attacking, that Lieutenant Wood, commanding the escort 88th, posted a chain of sentries. When the report of firing was heard, the Kaffirs withdrew, and I have little doubt that the last force met by Major Moore as he was advancing towards Draaibosch were the same men, and that this incident saved the convoy.

14. I cannot close my report without directing special attention to the bravery and gallant conduct of Major Moore, both on the 29th and 30th.

On the 29th he rallied a few Frontier Mounted Police, and made a desperate, though unsuccessful attempt to save the life of Policeman Giesse; he was wounded severely in the arm with an assegai, and his horse also incurred a severe wound. Had he been properly supported by his men, his gallant effort would have probably had a different result.

On the 30th the conduct of this officer was beyond all praise, and the theme of high commen-

dation with everyone. The mere handful of young soldiers could only have been made to stand as firmly as they did, by such conspicuous courage and cool daring as Major Moore showed during the whole of this action: the least wavering would have been fatal.

Major Moore's horse on this occasion received three gunshot wounds, and had in consequence to be destroyed.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. LAMBERT, Lieutenant-Colonel
Commanding 88th Regiment, and
Troops, Komgha.

From Brevet-Major Moore, 88th Regiment,
Frontier Armed Mounted Police, to Lieuten-
tenant-Colonel W. Lambert, Commanding
Troops.

Camp, Komgha,

December 31, 1877.

Sir,

1. I HAVE the honour to report, that in compliance with your orders I started from this on the 29th instant, at 1 P.M., with a patrol of 32 non-commissioned officers and men, Frontier Armed Mounted Police, and Sub-Inspector Mitchell, in the direction of Draaibosch, near which place the postriders carrying the mails to Kei Road, same forenoon, had been fired on and forced to return to Komgha.

2. About 4 miles from Komgha I turned off the road to the right, and passing by the ruins of De Cock's house, which had been burned by Kaffirs a few hours before, advanced cautiously with patrols thrown out, to the top of a neighbouring hill, on the further slope of which, among large boulders, were posted a number of Kaffirs, with guns and assegais.

3. I was with the advanced party, and called upon the Kaffirs nearest to me to lay down their arms: in reply a shot was fired at us by a man 30 or 40 yards off, and others quickly followed.

4. The troop having come up presently, I ordered the men to dismount, and half to skirmish. The Kaffirs, about 100 in number, then began to run down the slope towards the Kabousie, followed for a short direction by our skirmishers.

5. We then mounted, and took up a commanding position about a mile nearer the Draaibosch, from which we could see another party of Kaffirs coming from the direction of the Kabousie, with the intention, apparently, of getting round our left.

6. Having again dismounted and commenced skirmishing, the enemy retired in haste towards the river.

7. We then turned away sharp to the left, towards Draaibosch, in order to gain, according to your order, a detachment of 40 men, 88th Regiment, under Lieutenant Wood, who were escorting ammunition wagons to Komgha.

8. About two miles from the ruins of Macdonald's Canteen, our right patrol came upon a body of about 300 Kaffirs, who were advancing in our direction; the troop was ordered to dismount to receive them, but after firing a few shots, retired. The Kaffirs followed up, and having overtaken one man, Private Giesse, who was dismounted, and dragging his horse after him, killed him with assegais, despite the efforts of a few to rescue him. I grieve to say we were unable to recover the body, greatly outnumbered as we were.

9. The enemy afterwards came to a halt, and about a mile from Savage's Shop, were met by Deputy Commissary-General Strickland, Assis-