

tant Commissary Richardson, and Lieutenant Wood, who had heard the firing from Draaibosch, where they had outspanned.

10. We then accompanied the ammunition wagons and detachment 88th Regiment, to Komgha, without molestation.

Commandant Cowie, who accompanied me throughout, and Sub-Inspector Mitchell, did good service; Dr. Clinton, in medical charge; Colour-Sergeant Harbor and Corporal Court, Frontier Armed Mounted Police, behaved gallantly in attempting to rescue Private Giesse when surrounded by Kaffirs. Sergeant Harbor further distinguished himself by halting when the enemy were within a few yards, and taking up behind him Private Martindale, whose horse had broken loose, thus saving him from sharing the fate of Private Giesse.

Five of the enemy were seen to drop, including three who were pistoled in the mêlée round Private Giesse. There may have been over and above this number accounted for.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. J. MOORE, Brevet-Major,
88th Connaught Rangers, 2nd in Command
Frontier Armed Mounted Police.

*NOMINAL ROLL of Killed and Wounded at
Camp Komgha, December 29, 1877.*

*Camp Komgha,
December 29, 1877.*

Frontier Armed Mounted Police.

Private Geisse, killed.

88th Connaught Rangers.

Brevet-Major J. D. G. Moore, severely wounded.

Civil Surgeon Clinton, slightly wounded.

(Signed) J CLINTON, Surgeon in Charge.

*RETURN of Horses, Killed and Wounded on
29th December, 1877.*

Brevet-Major Moore's wounded slightly.

Commandant Cowie's, bullet wound.

Colour-Sergeant Harbor's, wounded twice.

(Signed) H. J. MOORE, Brevet-Major
Frontier Armed Mounted Police.

From Major Moore, 88th Connaught Rangers,
Frontier Armed Mounted Police, to Lieut-
Colonel Lambert, Commanding Troops,
Komgha.

Sir, Komgha, December 31, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that in obedience to your orders, I left Komgha yesterday at 11 A. M., with 40 men 88th Regiment, under Captain Acklom, and 21 Frontier Armed Mounted Police, under Sub-Inspector White, for the purpose of escorting the Mail from the Transkei past Draaibosch, the post drivers on the previous day having made three unsuccessful attempts to carry it through to Gray's Farm.

2. As we proceeded, the enemy's scouts were visible at many points on the ridge tops on both sides of the road, but chiefly on those of the north.

3. We advanced with great caution, the mounted patrols being thrown out to front, rear, and flanks.

4. When we approached Savage's Shop, six miles from Komgha, large bodies of Kaffirs were seen mustered about a mile to our right, i.e., north.

5. I was at that time just about to halt the Infantry and ride on to Gray's Farm with the mail bags and mounted escort. Fearing an attack, I selected a good defensive position on

the crown of a hill about half-a-mile beyond Savage's Shop, and close to the road.

6. I then extended the Infantry behind some broken ground, with half the police dismounted, prolonging to the right; the remainder of the police holding the horses, and the ammunition carts were posted in the rear.

7. We were not kept long in suspense, as to the enemy's intention, for by the time our arrangements were completed, about 600 footmen and 50 mounted men (the latter took no part in the action) were seen advancing rapidly and in perfect order.

8. At about 500 yards we opened fire, and the bullocks ran off with our ammunition cart to our rear. The enemy continued to advance, and detached large bodies to both flanks, chiefly to our right, some men also getting to our rear, into whose hands the ammunition cart fell.

9. The fight lasted from 2.15 to 3.45 P.M., bodies of the enemy being within assegai-range, but of these very few were thrown, nearly all the Kaffirs opposed to us being armed with guns and rifles.

10. Our ammunition, of which the troops carried 40 rounds, beginning to fall short, matters were becoming critical, and we were obliged to have recourse to frequent bayonet charges, before which the enemy always gave way, we were careful to keep fast hold of the hill-top, and the Kaffirs at length began to retire from all sides, leisurely making their way in the direction from which they came.

11. We then commenced our march back, but on reaching Savage's Shop, hearing reinforcements were at hand, we halted: you with 50 men 88th Regiment, and about 15 mounted volunteers from Komgha, arrived about half-an-hour afterwards, i.e., 4.45 P.M.

12. The Connaught Rangers, boys though they are—not one of them had ever seen an enemy before—and some of the Frontier Armed Mounted Police, behaved admirably well, they repelled attack after attack from large bodies advancing in every direction, charging with a cheer when called on, and held final possession of the well-contested hill-top.

13. Their fire, however, was very mild, to which may be attributed the small number of the enemy accounted for. Of these 9 bodies were counted, but many more, and all the wounded, had been carried away during the several times the Kaffirs had over-run.

14. I have to deplore the large number of casualties among men and horses on our side, but I believe nothing could be done on our part by which they might have been lessened.

15. Captain Acklom was always on the fore front whenever an attack had to be repelled, or a body of the enemy dislodged, and he displayed sound judgment throughout.

16. 2nd Lieutenant Acton who had joined the service only a few days ago, showed great coolness, as did also Sub-Inspector White. Surgeon MacCartney, in medical charge, zealously performed his duties with the wounded under a heavy fire.

17. I have also to thank Deputy Commissary Warneford, Mr. White, Magistrates Clerk, whose coolness and courage were conspicuous, and Mr. Barnet, of Pagots Hotel, who fought throughout as volunteers.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. J. MOORE, Brevet-Major
88th Connaught Rangers, and
2nd in Command Frontier Armed
Mounted Police.