

The loss of Europeans in the engagement was eight killed and sixteen wounded, one of whom has since died; out of the killed six were officers or non-commissioned officers of the Native Contingent; these men fought, as far as came under my notice, with great bravery, being, of course, unsupported by their men, one out of ten of whom only have fire-arms, while the Zulus appear all to be possessed of them.

I enclose the reports of Lieutenant Dowding, commanding Royal Marine Light Infantry, and Midshipman Coker, in charge of the Gatling, both of whom were placed so far in rear that I had no opportunity of observing their movements.

It is with greatest gratification I report the splendid behaviour of the Naval Brigade in action of 22nd instant; all were remarkably steady under fire; those employed on the ridge were exposed to a cross fire for nearly two hours, after which they responded to my call for the final assault with alacrity, and led the rush till success was secured.

I particularly recommend Lieutenant Hamilton, whose company was in front during the action.

Sub-Lieutenant Fraser also did good service in command of the Reserve, being under fire the whole time.

Boatswain Cotter was most successful with the rockets I placed in his charge.

Lieutenant Craigie, Gunnery Lieutenant, rendered valuable services as Acting Adjutant.

Ekwowe was reached early on 23rd, and the head quarters are expected to remain for eight or ten days before any further advance is made.

200 men marched in the direction of the Tugela this morning, and 400 more leave tomorrow, to escort convoys; reports have reached that attacks have been made on these.

The force lately beaten by the 1st Division of the Column are said to be assembled in the bush at Umlatoo River, there to attack us on advancing. It seems probable that they will not be dispersed without some loss on our side. The Zulus seem adepts at skirmishing, always in extended order; they rush from one bush to another, delivering their fire, and then retiring under cover to load. It requires a good marksman to bring them down. Nothing like the masses of men spoken of as composing their armies has been seen, and they show no disposition to meet us in the open, but confine themselves to taking us at a disadvantage as on the 22nd instant.

The enemy have unfortunately carried off the six Martini-Henry rifles and ammunition of the Europeans of the Native Contingent killed; doubtless these will be used against us with effect in next action.

I trust my proceedings may meet your approval.

I have &c.,

(Signed) H. FLETCHER CAMPBELL,
Commanding Naval Brigade.

I beg to recommend to your notice, E. White, Principal Officer First Class, who continued to fight after having been struck by a ball.

E. Fitcher, Principal Officer First Class, took a leading part in the movements.

Thomas Harding, Ordinary, the first unmounted man in enemy's position.

SIR, Inyezana, January 23, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that in accordance with orders, I marched the Marines from the camping ground near the Amatikulu, on the morning of the 22nd inst., in rear of the Gatling gun. After marching about 2½ hours we heard rapid firing commencing at the front of the column;

almost at the same instant an officer of the Native Contingent rode up to me, reporting that the enemy were in large numbers on our right. Immediately told Captain Forster of the Buffs, who was in command of the rear guard.

He ordered us to extend on the right flank of the wagons, at the same time the Gatling gun was brought into action.

I advanced the Marines in line with a Company of the Buffs under Captain Foster, but owing to the height of the reeds and bush we only occasionally got a glimpse of the enemy about 400 yards in front of us, and apparently in large numbers. They appeared to be trying to get round the rear of the column. I was able occasionally to open fire at them on arriving at the edge of the reeds.

After advancing in this way about a quarter of a mile, we found another company of the Buffs moving from the front of the column, and some 300 yards to our front. I therefore at once moved my men back on the Gatling gun, and made my way at once to the Head Quarter Staff, and reported my arrival to Colonel Pearson.

He ordered Mr. Coker to bring up the Gatling gun at once. I was told to place my men at the top of the hill to the left of the Gatling gun, when I at once opened fire on the enemy, who were keeping up a fairly continuous fire in our direction. The Gatling gun shortly opening fire on our right; after about a quarter of an hour Mr. Craigie rode up with half of "B" Company, saying he had orders to bring up the rest of the Naval Brigade to support "A" Company, and as the Gatling gun was now well guarded, I at once joined him with the Marines.

We moved rapidly along to the kraal on the top of the hill that had been already taken, where we found the remainder of "B" Company, keeping up a continuous fire at the enemy on our left, and then advanced on the main road, up a steep hill, until we joined Mr. Hamilton's men.

The men behaved well and steadily under fire. The marching at the commencement in extended order being very heavy through the thick bush and reeds.

The amount of ammunition expended was between 500 and 600 rounds.

I have, &c.

(Signed) TOWNLY W. DOWDING,
Lieut. Comdg. R. Marines,
H.M.S. "Active."

A. Campbell, R.N.,
Comdg. Naval Brigade.

SIR, Inyizana, January 23, 1879.

I HAVE the honor to report I was placed in rear of the leading column with Gatling gun. About two and a half hours after leaving the camping grounds, the head of the column was engaged. A report having come in that the Natives were threatening the rear of the column, I placed my gun on a hill, in a good position for firing if necessary.

I brought my gun into action, but through the clumsiness of my driver, my disselboom carried away. I repaired it as quickly as possible; no natives appearing, I moved on with the wagons; owing to the disselboom I was very much delayed.

On arriving at the foot of the hill, where the head quarters were, I was ordered by Colonel Pearson to bring the gun up and place it opposite a hill where some natives had taken up a position.

I immediately opened fire on them, they retiring into the bush I ceased firing, having expended