

but on looking round for Lieutenant Melville, and seeing him struggling to save the colour in the river, he at once turned his horse and rode back into the stream again to Lieutenant Melville's assistance.

It would appear that now the enemy had assembled in considerable force along their own bank, and had opened a heavy fire on our people, directing it more especially on Lieutenant Melville, who wore a red patrol jacket. So that when Lieutenant Coghill got into the river again, his horse was almost immediately killed by a bullet. Lieutenant Coghill was thus cast loose in the stream also, and notwithstanding the exertions of both these gallant officers, the colour was carried off from them, and they themselves gained the bank in a state of extreme exhaustion.

It would appear that they now attempted to move up the hill from the river bank towards Helpmakaar, but must have been too much exhausted to go on, as they were seen to sit down to rest again. This, I sorely regret to say, was the last time these two most gallant officers were seen alive.

It was not for some days after the 22nd that I could gather any information as to the probable fate of these officers. But immediately I discovered in what direction those who had escaped from Isandlwana had crossed the Buffalo, I sent, under Major Black, 2nd Battalion 24th Regiment, a mounted party who volunteered for this service, to search for any trace that could be found of them. This search was successful, and both bodies were found where they were last seen, as above indicated. Several dead bodies of the enemy were found about them, so that they must have sold their lives dearly at the last.

As it was considered that the dead weight of the colour would cause it to sink in the river, it was hoped that a diligent search in the locality where the bodies of these officers were found might lead to its recovery. So Major Black again proceeded on the 4th instant to prosecute this search. His energetic efforts were, I am glad to say, crowned with success, and the colour, with the ornaments, case, &c., belonging to it, were found, though in different places, in the river bed.

I cannot conclude this report without drawing the attention of His Excellency the Lieutenant-General Commanding, in the most impressive manner which words can command, to the noble and heroic conduct of Lieutenant and Adjutant Melville, who did not hesitate to encumber himself with the colour of the regiment, in his resolve to save it, at a time when the camp was in the hands of the enemy, and its gallant defenders killed to the last man in its defence, and when there appeared but little prospect that any exertions Lieutenant Melville could make would enable him to save even his own life. Also, later on, to the noble perseverance with which, when struggling between life and death in the river, his chief thoughts to the last were bent on the saving of the colour.

Similarly would I draw His Excellency's attention to the equally noble and gallant conduct of Lieutenant Coghill, who did not hesitate for an instant to return unsolicited, and ride again into the river under a heavy fire of the enemy, to the assistance of his friend, though at the time he was wholly incapacitated from walking, and but too well aware that any accident that might separate him from his horse must be fatal to him.

In conclusion, I would add that both these officers gave up their lives in the truly noble task of endeavouring to save from the enemy's hands

the Queen's colour of their regiment; and, greatly though their sad end is to be deplored, their deaths could not have been more noble or more full of honour.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) R. T. GLYN,  
Colonel, Commanding 3rd Column.

From the Lieutenant-General Commanding in South Africa to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for War.

Pietermaritzburg, Natal,  
March 2, 1879.

SIR,

1. DURING the past week no movements of the Zulu forces have been reported beyond that some regiments are said to be near Etshowe, watching Colonel Pearson's column; on the other hand, Captain Barrow, with a force of mounted infantry, patrolled by the lower or coast road as far as the Inyazane River without meeting any Zulu force.

2. It is reported that the Zulu King is anxious to attack Colonel Pearson's entrenchments.

3. H.M.S. "Shah" left Simon's Bay yesterday, and I trust the reinforcements to the Naval Brigade may be at their posts within a week or ten days from now.

4. Admiral Sullivan informs me that Captain Bradshaw took upon himself the responsibility of coming to this station on hearing of the state of affairs, and apparently the Governor of St. Helena, in the same spirit, sent me all the available troops he had. In bringing this to your notice I wish to record my grateful appreciation of the manner in which these reinforcements have been diverted to South Africa. As I explained by last mail, their arrival will enable me at a critical moment to take the offensive on the Lower Tugela line, a course from which I am precluded, as at present situated, as long as Colonel Pearson finds it necessary or desirable to retain his whole force at Etshowe.

My last communication from him is dated the 24th.

5. From Colonel Wood, commanding No. 4 Column, I have received constant reports; he is holding an entrenched position at Kambula Hill (vide Durnford's map), and patrolling as far as his force of mounted men will permit.

6. Oham, Cetywayo's brother, has been for some time past in communication with Colonel Wood; he did not, however, surrender himself on the day he arranged to.

Colonel Wood believes he is sincere in his desire to do so, and I do not think it is likely he will be deceived by any subterfuge on his part.

7. The health of the troops has not changed since I last reported. I regret to say that Second Lieutenant Reg. Franklin died at Helpmakaar of fever.

I enclose supplementary and corrected casualty reports.

8. I am informed by the Lieutenant-Governor that he has given directions for the additional force of natives to be sent to the frontier which I recommended.

9. The natives of the 1st and 2nd Regiments of the Natal Native Contingent are with their battalions, and the officers report that an excellent spirit exists in their ranks, and that they are anxious to cross the border; it is right I should add that the spirit of the 1st Regiment has not yet been tested, and that of the 2nd Regiment when they were with Colonel Pearson's (No. 1) Column a month or five weeks ago was not such as it is now stated to be.