



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 19th of AUGUST.

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War Office, August 20, 1879.

**D**ESPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have been received by the Secretary of State from Lieutenant-General Lord Chelmsford, K.C.B. :—

*Head Quarters Camp,  
Entonjaneni, Zululand,  
July 6, 1879.*

SIR,

MY last despatch, dated June 28th, will have placed you in full possession of the situation on that date of that portion of Her Majesty's forces under my immediate and personal command, and of our relations with Ketchwayo.

These forces were about to leave this place for the Valley of Umvelosi, with ten days' provisions and about 200 wagons, the remainder of the stores, together with all the tents and wagons, &c., &c., being left behind in an entrenched position here. I was at that time aware that a very considerable force was collected on the left bank of the river, and I reported that until I received from Ketchwayo compliance with the demands I had already communicated to you, I should continue my advance to Ulundi.

The advance was commenced on the 30th June, and the camps of the flying column and 2nd Division were formed that day at a distance of nine or ten miles from the Umvelosi River.

Two messengers from Ketchwayo were seen by me about mid-day. I have the honour of enclosing a copy of the message (marked A) sent to him, which, at their request, was reduced to writing; likewise a copy of the written communication (marked A a) received by me through Mr. Fiju, the white man with the Zulu chief. The messengers brought with them the sword of the late Imperial Prince Louis Napoleon, which, for safe custody, was sent back to the fort here. The messengers were desired to take charge of the cattle which had been sent in to me at Entonjaneni, as I wanted to return them now I was advancing: but they refused to take them, on the

plea of the delay it would cause in their return to the King.

On the following day (1st July) our advance was continued over a difficult country, where the wagon track passed through bush of cactus and mimosa trees. After considerable labour on the part of the troops in clearing the road and levelling the drifts, the column reached the vicinity of the River Umvelosi about 1 P.M. The enemy's picquets fell back on our approach, and no opposition took place this day to our taking up our positions on the right bank; at one time, indeed, large bodies of Zulus were seen to move from Ulundi to certain positions in our front, which made me anxious to get our camps formed as speedily as possible. By dusk our position was perfectly defensible, and our cattle and horses had been watered at the river.

On the ensuing day (2nd July) the camp of the 2nd Division closed up to that of the column under Brigadier-General Wood, and our entrenched camp, with a small stone fort, was formed on a plan that would enable a small garrison to defend it, leaving the remainder of the force free to operate unencumbered by any wagons, in such manner as might be deemed desirable.

The Zulu force did not show itself this day; no messengers arrived from the King. A large herd of white cattle was observed being driven from the King's kraal towards us but was driven back again shortly afterwards.

As no message had been received from Ketchwayo, the following morning (3rd July), and as considerable annoyance was offered to our watering parties by Zulus firing on them, I arranged for a reconnaissance to be made by Lieutenant-Colonel Buller, C.B., with his mounted men, as soon as the time allowed for meeting my demands had expired. The cattle sent in by Ketchwayo on 29th June, were driven across the river to him during the morning.

Lieutenant-Colonel Buller crossed the river by the lower drift to the right of our camp, and was

\* 6000 Oxen, 800 Mules, 400 Wagons.