

Much though the loss of these brave men is to be regretted, the information about the enemy and the nature of the ground beyond the Umvolosi River proved of the greatest advantage in the operations of yesterday.

5. In compliance with orders the column under my command moved across the Umvolosi River at at 6.45 A.M. yesterday, strength about 2,000 white men and 400 natives.

Here, again, Colonel Buller gave us such aid as has seldom been afforded by light cavalry to a main body of troops. Crossing the river in advance of our infantry, he pushed on and selected the position his Excellency the Lieutenant-General Commanding eventually occupied, a choice which materially aided us in obtaining so cheaply bought a victory.

6. During the action of yesterday, the men were as steady as walls and as much under the control of their officers as at a drill in England.

7. The Gatling guns under Major Owen, Royal Artillery, and Lieutenant Rundle, Royal Artillery, came into action a little in advance of the front face of the square. Combined with the fire of the infantry they effectually checked the daring attempt of the enemy to come to close quarters.

8. I received during the action every support from the officers of the staff and corps of the column.

9. The wounded were carefully treated under a very hot fire by Surgeon Anderson and Surgeon A. Lennox Brown, and on their being brought into camp by Surgeon-Major Cuffe and Civil-Surgeon Glanville. Surgeon-Major Cuffe speaks in the highest terms of the skill and attention of this gentleman. Surgeon Anderson particularly mentions the assistance he received from Private Lanning, Army Hospital Corps, during the engagement.

10. His Excellency has frequently been good enough to speak with approbation of the order, regularity, and celerity of the movements of this column. I feel that eighteen months of incessant work in the field, which has not been without anxiety, more or less constant, makes it advisable, both in the interest of the service, and for the sake of my own health and efficiency, that I should have a relaxation of work, if only for a short time. I desire, therefore, to place on record that the good service done by this column is due to the cheerful, untiring obedience of soldiers of all ranks which has rendered my executive duties a source of continued pleasure, and to the efforts of the undermentioned staff, regimental, and departmental officers, many of whom have worked day and night to carry out my wishes:—

Major Clery, half-pay 32nd Light Infantry, was, to my great regret, removed to No. 3 Column in December, but his Excellency allowed him, at my special request, to rejoin me as my Senior Staff Officer on 1st May.

Energetic and untiring, well versed in the theory of his profession, and from his services as Adjutant of his Regiment, thoroughly acquainted with regimental duties, he has rendered me great assistance. Since he rejoined me I have practically left in his hands all the routine of the column duties.

I have frequently had the pleasure of bringing to notice the good service done by Captain E. K. P. Woodgate, 4th King's Own Regiment.

Singularly calm and collected under fire, he has a quick eye for ground, and I have seldom or never desired to change the choice he has made for our positions. He has done all the work of the Quartermaster-General's Department, and has yet found time to execute a survey of a tract of

country of about fifty miles square, which is the only one I have seen with any pretence to accuracy.

Lieutenant Lysons, A.D.C., 90th Light Infantry, has done good service.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-General Commanding has observed with approbation the prompt and soldier-like way in which he took forward my personal escort under fire on the 2nd instant, to recover some cattle which had strayed across the river.

Colonel the Honourable R. Needham, late Grenadier Guards, and Captain Thornbury Cropper, West Kent Militia, Orderly Officers, have worked continuously in assisting to get the column transport forward on the line of march. Indeed I had employed Lieutenant Lysons and them daily as staff officers.

To the several commanding officers of corps my best thanks are due. Their example has been well followed by the troops they ably command.

Major E. J. T. Tremlett, Commanding Royal Artillery.

Major J. F. O. Owen, R.A., Commanding Gatling Battery.

Captain H. R. G. Browne, Commanding 7-pounder Battery.

Captain J. Jones, Commanding 5th Company Royal Engineers.

Major E. L. England, Commanding 1st Battalion 13th Light Infantry.

Major C. Tucker, Commanding 80th Regiment.

Major R. M. Rogers, V.C., Commanding 90th Light Infantry.

Commandant L. White (Wood's Irregulars).

Captain J. Nolan, Commanding Natal Pioneers.

Major C. J. Moysey, Commanding Royal Engineers, has served with me since December.

Not content to render me all the assistance derivable from the technical knowledge of his branch of the service, he has done every kind of staff work for me in turn, and has assisted me materially.

Commissary E. Hughes joined me in December. I was then in difficulties as regards our commissariat arrangements. Since Mr. Hughes's arrival I have had no trouble. Far seeing and painstaking, he unites in his character the unusual faculty of pleasing commanding officers and their men, while watching closely the interests of the public. I am very anxious his services should be rewarded. Deputy Commissary Coates has been acting as Director of Transports under Commissary Hughes, and has done his work remarkably well, as, indeed, he did in 1873, in the Ashantee expedition. Commissary of Ordnance C. Campbell has rendered me all the assistance in his power. His departmental duties were greatly increased by the want of ordnance stores at his command, which obliged me to direct him to purchase largely in the district. Commissary of Ordnance Campbell has also given great assistance daily on the line of march in transport work. In recognition of the hard work he and Commissary Hughes have done I took them into action yesterday as Orderly Officers.

Captain Vaughan, R.A., with local rank of Major, was in charge of our line of communications and Director of Transport, from January to April. During this period, the transport arrangements received the approval of his Excellency. Captain Bradshaw, 13th Light Infantry, has been employed as Assistant Director of Transport for seven months. He possesses sound judgment and great energy, and has done excellent service.

The movements of this column have been so constant, that the Reverend Coar and the Reverend Bandy, have had very little opportunity of exer-