

service in scouting and protecting the march of the column on its road from Newcastle.

26. The Rev. G. M. St. M. Ritchie, Chaplain to the Forces, was with me through the engagement; and I am much indebted to him for his indefatigable zeal in rendering aid to the wounded, assisting at the collection and burial of the dead, and giving help wherever help was most needed.

27. Surgeon-Major Babington was in charge of the Field Hospital, and laboured zealously and untiringly to meet the heavy calls made upon him and his Medical Staff.* The ambulances were formed close in rear of the position taken up, and were soon crowded with wounded; but through the great exertions of Surgeon-Major Babington and his assistants, with ready help from the transport and the regiments, the wounded were all cared for and brought into camp before night.

28. I cannot speak too highly of the manner in which the Commissariat duties of the force have been carried on under the direction of Assistant Commissary-General Elmes, the Senior Commissariat Officer. Although the difficulties connected with the provisioning and transport of the force have been considerable, they have always been surmounted by his indefatigable energy and resource, and the troops have throughout been well provided for.

29. Lieutenant Brotherton, R.E., with his small detachment, has rendered valuable assistance in improving roads and drifts, and laying out and directing the construction of entrenchments.

30. Major Essex, Staff Officer of the column, has done excellent service throughout, his experience gained in the Zulu war being especially valuable. He was with Colonel Deane in the attack on the hill, where his horse was killed under him, and distinguished himself by his courage and coolness, remaining to the last, and directing the companies that covered the retirement of the 58th Regiment.

31. Captain MacGregor, R.E., my Assistant Military Secretary, has been of invaluable assistance to me from the beginning of these operations, and has shown himself to possess, in an eminent degree, all the most valuable qualities of a Staff Officer.

32. To Commodore Richards, C.B., A.D.C., who was present at the engagement, I am deeply indebted, not only for the material assistance afforded me by the Naval Brigade, but for ready help and hearty co-operation in everything concerned with the disembarkation and equipment of the forces assembling in Natal.

33. The behaviour of the men on the line of march, in camp, and before the enemy, has been all that could be desired, and deserves special mention. The amount of crime has been almost *nil*, and, on the day that the column marched against the enemy, there were only two men sick in hospital.

34. Among many gallant deeds performed during the action, I would wish especially to mention the following:—

Lieutenant Hill, 58th Regiment, as the regiment was retiring, passed Lieutenant Baillie, badly wounded, and tried to bring him out on his horse. While so trying, Lieutenant Baillie was hit again, and killed. Lieutenant Hill then brought another man out of action on his horse, and immediately returned to the hill to aid the wounded, under fire, remaining there till taken prisoner, but afterwards released by the Boers.

* Surgeons E. King and J. McGann, A.M.D., and Surgeon E. E. Mahon, R.N., Her Majesty's ship "Flora," distinguished themselves by their attention to the wounded under fire.

Sergeant-Major Murray, 58th Regiment, though severely wounded, refused to go to the rear, but remained with a few men to the last to cover the retirement of the regiment, and was again hit.

Private J. Doegen, King's Dragoon Guards, servant to Major Brownlow, was charging with the troop when Major Brownlow's horse was shot. Seeing Major Brownlow dismounted and among the Boers, he rode up, and, though himself severely wounded, dismounted and wished Major Brownlow to take his horse, receiving another wound while trying to get him to take it.

Private Godfrey and Band-boy Martin, 58th Regiment, remained with Major Hingeston and Captain Lovegrove respectively, when these officers were wounded, and, notwithstanding the heavy fire, refused to leave them till they had been carried down the hill and taken to the ambulance.

35. Of the numbers of the Boers, and their losses, it is difficult to form any reliable estimate. Judging, however, by the numbers who actually showed at the points attacked, and by information obtained from various sources, I should put their number at about 2,000. Considering the excellent cover under which they mostly fought, I cannot suppose that their losses were heavy.

36. I must do my adversaries the justice to say that they fought with great courage and determination. A good deal of the fighting was at short ranges of 20 to 100 yards, and the Boers showed no fear of our troops but rather advanced to meet them. I have also to acknowledge the courtesy shown by some of their leaders in giving facilities for the care and removal of the wounded.

I shall hold this camp until I receive reinforcements sufficient to enable me to renew the attack. The Indian reinforcements are already in the country, and will reach me in about a fortnight's time; and Brigadier-General Sir Evelyn Wood, and the reinforcements from home, may be expected a fortnight later.

I am unable to send a sketch of the ground with this report, as Major Peole, D.A.A.G., who was making the sketch, was killed, and his papers lost.

I have, &c.,

G. POMEROY COLLEY, Major-General,
Commanding the Forces, Natal and Transvaal.

Inclosure 1.

Strength of Column leaving Camp, 28th
January, 1881.

Column Staff—2 field officers. Total officers 2.
Royal Artillery—1 captain, 3 subalterns. Total
4. 2 sergeants, 3 corporals, 1 trumpeter, 66
privates. Total 72. Total officers and men 76.
6 guns.

Mounted Squadron—1 field officer, 1 captain,
4 subalterns. Total 6. 12 sergeants, 14 corporals,
2 trumpeters, 85 privates. Total 113. Total
officers and men 119. 180 horses.

Natal Mounted Police.—1 field officer, 1 captain,
1 subaltern. Total 3. 3 sergeants, 5 corporals,
2 trumpeters, 53 privates. Total 63. Total
officers and men 66. 66 horses.

2-21st Regiment—1 subaltern. Total 1. 6
privates. Total 6. Total officers and men 7.

58th Regiment—1 field officer, 1 captain, 12
subalterns, 1 staff. Total 15. 28 sergeants, 25
corporals, 12 drummers, 414 privates. Total
479. Total officers and men 494.

3-60th Rifles—1 field officer, 2 captains, 9 sub-
alterns, 1 staff. Total 13. 18 sergeants, 13 cor-
porals, 10 drummers, 280 privates. Total 321.
Total officers and men 334.