

and were placed in a hollow. At daylight firing commenced, the enemy being seen round the foot of the mountain. The 2nd section of the company Naval Brigade was then sent to line the edge of the mountain in rear. I went with this section; shortly after part of the 58th regiment were withdrawn from the left of the mountain, and replaced by portions of the 1st and 2nd sections of Naval Brigade. Our men were lying down under good cover, firing seldom, as the Boers did not show in force on the left, and generally kept out of range. Lieutenant Trower was near me, and Commander Romilly was with us the greater part of the time. At about 11 A.M. 12 of my men were taken from the left, and sent to the front of the hill. Commander Romilly came over for them, and in returning he was shot through the body whilst standing by the General, the bullet exploding after passing through him. Dr. Mahon, who was close by, at once attended him, and he was carried to the hollow of the mountain out of fire. Lieutenant Trower then took the 12 men over to the other side. The left half company were still in reserve in the hollow. Shortly after this, Lieutenant Trower, who had returned to where I was stationed, ordered me to take charge of six men who were posted on a ledge some 20 feet below the top and on the right side of the mountain, near the path by which we ascended. I remained in this place until nearly one o'clock, my men firing occasional shots at the enemy when they came within range. The firing on the other side of the mountain seemed to be less heavy, and a signal was made to the camp that the Boers were breaking up their encampment. Shortly before one o'clock the firing increased, and I heard several volleys. Some men then passed me, and said that the Boers were on the top of the hill, and our men were being driven back. I at once took my men over to the point where the enemy were attacking; they had not gained the top, but were apparently close up; the 92nd and part of the 58th were firing on them. I could not see the remainder of the Naval Brigade on account of the rising ground; the greater part of them were on the right front of the mountain with Lieutenant Trower. A great number of wounded men were in the hollow. On getting near the general I received an order from him by Mr. Hay, correspondent of the Daily News, to take my men back to their former position. A few minutes after arriving there I saw our forces beginning to retire down both sides of the mountain towards the camp, and the retreat then became general. The Boers had gained the top of the hill, and were coming across in great numbers to cut off the men retreating. I then retired with my six men down the path by which we ascended. The enemy poured a tremendous fire down the sides of the mountain, so that we were obliged to scatter, and make the best of our way out of range. Lieutenant Morgan, of the 58th regiment, came down the hill with me; also W. Kemp, A.B., and Geo. Sponder, ord., both of whom were wounded. On nearing O'Neill's farm, we met several men returning to camp, amongst them a few men of the Naval Brigade who had come down the rear face of the mountain. I waited here a short time to collect stragglers, and then came into camp, arriving a little after 3 P.M. I found that about 20 men of the Naval Brigade had come in, including those who accompanied me. Most of the men lost their arms in retreating, the sides of the mountain being almost perpendicular where they were obliged to come down. The six men who were with me during the latter part of the action all arrived in camp; two of them, Geo. Sponder, ord., and Geo. Bridge,

ord., being wounded. In referring to the rear of the mountain I mean the side facing the camp. The times are approximate, as I had no watch.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS L. SCOTT,
Sub-Lieutenant.

Lieutenant H. Ogle, R.N.

Enclosure No. 2 with Cape and West Coast Station Letter No. 67, 14th March, 1881.

*The Camp, Mount Prospect,
March 4, 1881.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that on February 26th, at about 10 P.M., I left camp with the column, accompanied by Bevis, the sick-berth attendant, with surgical appliances.

Surgeon Landon, A.M.D., with four of the A.H.C., also being with the troops.

The detachment from Naval Brigade, 64 in number, under Commander Romilly with Lieutenants Trower, Scott, and myself, reached the top of Majuba Mountain at about 4 A.M. on February 27th, the last part of the route being most precipitous. Portions of the 92nd, 58th, with General Colley, first preceded us. Day broke a few minutes after we had gained the summit, and the troops were told off to their respective positions.

Surgeon Landon and myself then chose a position for the hospital near the centre of the plateau, behind a ridge of rocks, and calculated to be out of the enemy's fire. A well was immediately dug near this spot, and a good supply of water was obtained at the depth of three feet.

After about an hour a few shots began to be exchanged, but none of our force were hit for about an hour. A desultory fire continued up to about 11 A.M., up to which time five of the 92nd only had been slightly wounded, and were dressed by Landon and myself. At about 11 A.M. I went over to the west side of the plateau (see diagram) to see how Lieutenants Scott and Trower were getting on. I had hardly been there three minutes when I heard a bullet explode close to us. I heard the General say "Captain Romilly is hit," and turning round saw General Colley kneeling by the side of the Commander, who was lying on the ground about four yards from us. I sent for a stretcher, and proceeded to dress the wound, which I found to perforate the left side of the abdomen and coming out at the loins. The bullet had only passed through soft parts, which accounts for its not exploding inside the body.

I had him carried to the hospital.

From this time up to 12 o'clock the fire continued on all sides in a desultory manner, being much brisker, however, on the east and north-east fronts. At about a quarter to 1 P.M. the Boers' fire, which up to this had been much brisker than ours (I should say they had fired six shots to our one), almost entirely ceased. At about 1 o'clock they advanced in force on the E.N.E. front, and poured in a tremendous fire. Some blue jackets and some of the 58th were sent to reinforce the 92nd, and the Boers retired, but immediately advanced in greater numbers a little more to the left.

The fire now became so hot, and the hospital being partially exposed to it, I had the Commander removed on a stretcher by Bevis and Bone, L.S., to a sheltered spot on the south-west front.

I was returning to the hospital when I saw our force beginning a retreat, which soon became a rout. The Boers gained the rocks just above the hospital in great numbers, and poured a