

To the Chief of the Staff Head-Quarters.

SIR, *Heidelberg, March 29, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated March 14th, 1881, transmitted to me by Mr. Joubert, directing me to collect and forward to you information regarding the prisoners in the hands of Boers.

These prisoners were stationed at Brunkhorst Spruit and Heidelberg, with the exception of Major Clarke, who was detained at Potchefstroom.

The officers at Heidelberg, where I was living, were not allowed to see the men except by special permission. Upon receipt of your letter, having obtained the sanction of the authorities, I went to the camp where the men were located, and made the most careful inquiries. No camp could have been more comfortable, and I was assured on all hands that nothing but kindness had been experienced at the hands of the Boers. The rations issued to the men were liberal in the extreme, and were described to me as being "as much as they liked." No complaint of any sort was forthcoming.

I beg to attach a return marked "A,"* giving the names of the men at Heidelberg, and showing the actions in which they were captured. All the men described as wounded on this return have quite recovered, and the health of all appeared to be excellent. Sergeant Clements, 3rd Battalion 60th Rifles, was the only man indisposed. He was still suffering slightly from bruises received when endeavouring to escape being taken prisoner.

Upon the following day, March 25, I proceeded to Brunkhorst Spruit, arriving at the camp on the 26th instant. I saw all the prisoners, and spoke to every man individually. Here, also, I found that the same kindness and attention had been shown to the prisoners as at Heidelberg, and that all were more than satisfied with their treatment.

I beg to attach a letter marked "B" from Surgeon Ward, Army Medical Department, corroborating the views I have expressed above. I also beg to attach the following returns, marked:—

*"C."—Officers, non-commissioned officers, and men killed at Bruncker's Spruit.

*"D."—Officers, non-commissioned officers, and men wounded, and present condition.

*"E."—Officers, non-commissioned officers, and men taken prisoners, and disposal.

*"F."—Officers, non-commissioned officers, and men present in camp, Brunkhorst Spruit, on March 27th, 1881.

All men shown in the Returns "D" and "E" as having gone to Heidelberg have been sent into the Free State, with the exception of these still here, as shown on Return "A."

With regard to the officers at Heidelberg, all of whom were captured at the action of Majuba Hill, every possible consideration has been shown to them, both on the march and while quartered here.

Mr. Maclaren, an English gentleman, was requested by the Boers to make all arrangements for their residence in Heidelberg. He placed his house and garden at their entire disposal, and has left nothing undone which could add to their comfort.

I would mention that every facility has been given me to make all inquiries; and when proceeding to and from Bruncker's Spruit, I was most hospitably entertained at various farmhouses to which I was taken by Mr. Schutt, a Boer representative, who accompanied me.

I have written to Major Clarke, at Potchefstroom, conveying to him the contents of your

letter, and requesting him to reply to it to you direct.

I have, &c.,
HERBERT STEWART,
Lieutenant-Colonel.

"B."

*Camp, Brunkhorst Spruit,
Transvaal, March 27, 1881.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to furnish you with nominal rolls* of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men killed, wounded, and taken prisoners in the action at Brunkhorst Spruit on 20th December last, as well as the non-commissioned officers and men of the Army Hospital Corps in this camp who were sent from Pretoria after the action.

I have been in this camp since, and with the exception of a few days have been in charge, and I have the pleasure to inform you that the Boers in the neighbourhood have been most kind to us, and have aided us in many ways, enabling us to procure necessaries for the wounded.

The general health of the camp has been exceptionally good, and the conduct of the men excellent.

I have, &c.,
E. C. R. WARD,
Surgeon, Army Medical Department, in
charge of Camp, Brunkhorst Spruit.

* These returns have not been printed, the information having already been published from time to time.

AT the Council Chamber, Whitehall, the 6th day of June, 1881.

By Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

THE Lords and others of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, by virtue and in exercise of the powers in them vested under The Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1878, and of every other power enabling them in this behalf, do order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:

1. This Order shall take effect from and immediately after the eighth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one.

2. The following place declared, by Order of Council dated the twenty-fifth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, to be a place infected with foot-and-mouth disease (namely),—a certain cattle-lair, occupied by George Todd, together with the slaughter-house attached, and situate in Temple-street, in the borough of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in the county of Northumberland,—is hereby declared to be free from foot-and-mouth disease, and that place shall, as from the commencement of this Order, cease to be a place infected with foot-and-mouth disease.

3. The following area declared, by Order of Council dated the third day of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, to be an area infected with foot-and-mouth disease (namely),—the borough of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in the county of Northumberland, except the lands and buildings approved by the Privy Council for the landing or lairage of foreign animals,—is hereby declared to be free from foot-and-mouth disease, and that area shall, as from the commencement of this Order, cease to be an area infected with foot-and-mouth disease.

C. L. Peel.