



SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 1st of APRIL.

Published by Authority.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1884.

War Office, April 3, 1884.

A DESPATCH, of which the following is a copy, has been received by the Secretary of State for War :—

From Major-General Sir G. Graham, Commanding Expeditionary Force, to the Secretary of State for War.

*Camp, Suakim,
March 15, 1884.*

MY LORD,
BY my last Despatch, posted on 11th March, the operations of this Army were related up to the morning of that day.

At six P.M. on the 11th instant, the Artillery and Infantry advanced to Baker's zeriba, about 8½ miles, reaching it about 10.30 P.M. There was a bright moon, and the night air soft and pleasant, so that the march did not distress the men, although it was hard work for the Naval Brigade.

The strength of the force was as follows :—

- Royal Artillery—
- 6th Batt. 1st Brig., Scottish Division, 7-pr. camel battery, under Major Lloyd—8 guns, 7 Officers, 100 non-commissioned officers and men, with 66 camels, carrying 90 rounds per gun.
- M Batt. 1st Brig., 9-pr. battery, under Major Holley—4 guns, 3 Officers, 66 non-commissioned officers and men, with 52 mules, carrying 86 rounds per gun.
- 1st Infantry Brigade, under Brigadier-General Buller, V.C., K.C.M.G., C.B. :—
- Royal Engineers, under Major Todd, R.E.—5 Officers, 57 non-commissioned officers and men.
- 3rd King's Royal Rifles—19 Officers, 546 non-commissioned officers and men.
- 1st Gordon Highlanders—23 Officers, 689 non-commissioned officers and men.
- 2nd Royal Irish Fusiliers—17 Officers, 326 non-commissioned officers and men.
- 2nd Infantry Brigade, under Major-General Davis :—
- 1st Royal Highlanders*—19 Officers, 604 non-commissioned officers and men.

* Already in zeriba.

1st York and Lancaster—14 Officers, 421 non-commissioned officers and men.

Royal Marine Artillery and Light Infantry—14 Officers, 464 non-commissioned officers and men.

General total of force of Artillery and Infantry, 116 Officers and 3,216 non-commissioned officers and men.

The troops left in camp and garrison at Suakim consisted of the Cavalry Brigade and Mounted Infantry under Brigadier-General Stewart, with orders to join Infantry early next morning, and of the following details left to protect camp and town :—

100 Royal Marines in the fort guarding the town, with five guns in position.

Sick and weakly men left in charge of the camp, the tents being left standing.

I appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Commandant of the Base, under the orders of Admiral Hewett.

At daybreak the Cavalry and Mounted Infantry watered at Suakim, and joined the force at Baker's zeriba about seven A.M. Their strength was as follows :—

10th Hussars—16 officers, 235 non-commissioned officers and men.

19th Hussars—19 officers, 343 non-commissioned officers and men.

Mounted Infantry—6 officers, 118 non-commissioned officers and men.

Total mounted troops, 41 officers, 696 non-commissioned officers and men.

On arrival I at once sent the Mounted Infantry to the front accompanied by Colonel Ardagh as Intelligence Officer.

About ten A.M. it was reported to me that the enemy was in force some six miles distant. Accordingly I ordered the force to advance as soon as the men had had their dinners, and got in movement about one P.M. The afternoon was hot, and frequent halts were necessary. About five P.M. the Cavalry scouts came in and I received a report in writing from the Officer that the enemy was advancing to attack in force. Accordingly I