

Thos. Reed, Privates John Anderson, Charles Clarke, and William Bailey.

38. The Indian Contingent was most efficient. The 9th Bengal Cavalry, 15th Sikhs, and 28th Bombay Infantry were conspicuous for their gallantry in the field and smartness on parade, while the 17th Bengal Infantry did good service in garrison at Suakin. The Queen's Own Madras Sappers and Miners again proved themselves first-rate troops, whether for fighting or for work. Brigadier-General Hudson commanded the Indian Contingent. He is a thorough soldier, with great coolness and marked capacity for command, and from his long experience is thoroughly well qualified for the command of Indian troops.

Brigadier-General Hudson received able assistance from his Staff and Departmental Officers, among whom he mentions:—Major McG. Stewart, R.A., A.A.G., and A.Q.M.G.; Major Cook, Bengal Staff Corps, Brigade-Major; Colonel Walcott, Chief Commissariat Officer; Major Shakespear, Chief Transport Officer; Brigade-Surgeons Thornton and Morice, Bengal Medical Service. Colonel A. P. Palmer commanded the 9th Bengal Cavalry with great dash and energy, and the services of this fine corps were very valuable. I would also bring forward the following as able and efficient Officers:—Colonel George Hennessy, Commandant 15th Sikhs; and Colonel H. Singleton, Commandant 28th Bombay Infantry; Captain Wilkieson, R.E., Commanding the Company of the Queen's Own Madras Sappers and Miners, who was wounded at the zereba on the 22nd March. The following officers deserve mention:—Major D. Robertson, Ressaldar Hakm Singh, 9th Bengal Cavalry; Major D. W. Inglis, Subadar Goordit Singh, 15th Sikhs; Captain and Adjutant F. M. Drury, 17th Bengal Infantry; Lieut.-Colonel R. Westmacott, Subadar Rama Kurrilkur, 28th Bombay Infantry.

39. The base and line of communications were commanded by Major-General C. B. Ewart, R.E., a most able, zealous, and hardworking officer, who carried out the difficult duties of his position with great judgment and discretion. He was ably assisted by Colonel H. G. McGregor and Major Hare.

40. The signalling department was most useful, and was soon well organised under the direction of Major E. T. Browell, R.A. Officers, non-commissioned officers, and men all worked well, and the following are specially mentioned:—Captain Rhodes, Berkshire Regiment; Lieutenant Lloyd, Grenadier Guards; Corporal Graham, 5th Lancers; Lance-Corporal Taylor, Berkshire Regiment; and Colour-Sergeant Sibbald, Grenadier Guards.

41. The Chaplains attached to the Field Force, whether Church of England, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, or Wesleyan, were zealous and active in their duties, and I desire to acknowledge the services of the Senior Chaplain, the Rev. W. H. Bullock; and of the Rev. B. Collins, Roman Catholic Chaplain, who displayed great coolness and presence of mind when at the flight of the zereba on the 22nd March.

42. It may be fairly said that in few operations of war has such a large and efficient Commissariat and Transport been organized in so short a time. Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Robertson, Assistant Commissary-General, is an especially good officer, and a most capable organiser, deserving great praise for his energy and resource. Lieut.-Colonel Walton, Assistant Commissary-General, the Director of Transport, organized a large transport under great pressure, and has kept it in a most efficient condition. Notwithstanding the

marches, and constant convoy duties, the casualties other than in action among transport animals have been very few, and I attribute this successful result to the exertions of the Officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Department. I beg to bring the following specially to notice:—Major J. A. Clarke, Assistant Commissary-General; Captain E. W. D. Ward, Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General; Captain E. A. de Cosson, Acting Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General; Captain E. T. Law, Acting Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General; Quartermasters F. Cassell, J. Howland, and W. Johnson, and Conductor H. E. Champion.

43. Besides the Commissariat and Transport of the Indian Contingent, which departments were excellently managed and satisfactory in every way, a large amount of transport for the British force came from India organized and equipped, and with its own Officers, which proved of the greatest value. Lieutenant-Colonel Beckett, of the Bengal Staff Corps, was in charge of the transport from India, and did good service, showing himself to be a capable Officer. He was ably assisted by the Officers and non-commissioned officers of the Indian Transport Department, among whom I would specially notice Brevet Major G. H. E. Elliott.

44. The Medical organization was most complete, and its working thoroughly efficient, and the same may be said of the Medical arrangements of the Indian Contingent. My acknowledgments are due to Deputy Surgeon-General Barnett, Principal Medical Officer, Deputy Surgeon-General Hinde, Brigade-Surgeon Warren, Brigade-Surgeon Tanner, and to Surgeon-Majors Shaw, Fleming, and Evatt. The Nursing Sisters, among whom may be mentioned Sisters Ireland, Norman, King, and Burleigh, rendered excellent service, and were unremitting in their care and attention to the sick and wounded.

The army of Suakin is indebted to the National Aid Society, and to its Commissioners, Sir Allen Young and Mr. Kennett Barrington, for many comforts, and its medical officers gave valuable aid.

45. The Ordnance Store Department was severely tried during the operations, for, not only had it to deal with a vast amount of stores and munitions of war, but also with a large number of special articles of equipment. Great credit is due to all concerned, specially to Major Skinner, Assistant Commissary-General, a very energetic and capable officer, who, with the assistance of the departmental officers, non-commissioned officers and men, was able to overcome all difficulties in a most satisfactory manner. I would mention Major H. St. George, Assistant Commissary-General in charge of the Ordnance depôt, and Quartermaster C. Hunter.

46. Lieutenant-Colonel Craig, the Chief Paymaster, performed his duties to my satisfaction, and his officers worked well.

Principal Veterinary-Surgeon W. B. Walters administered his department with ability, and his officers satisfactorily attended to the sick horses and transport animals.

The Army Postal duties were carried out under Major Sturgeon, A.P.O.C.

47. From Commodore More-Molyneux, and the squadron of the Royal Navy under his command, I received the most cordial assistance. In the small and intricate harbour at Suakin much depended upon the way the large transports were handled; and that no accident happened, and that the heavy work of disembarking troops, animals, and stores was successfully carried on, was due to