

Carriers.—Ammunition 19, water 20, provisions 10, rockets 6, blankets 23, spare for entrenching tools, lanterns, and carriers, 7.

G. GRAVES SAWLE, Commander.

Letter from Commander Graves Sawle, in Command of Naval Brigade, to Commander-in-Chief, dated 11th March, 1894, reporting Proceedings.

Enclosure No. 5 in Commander-in-Chief's Letter of 10th March, 1894.

Her Majesty Ship "Raleigh,"

SIR, *Bathurst, March 11, 1894.*

IN accordance with your order, I have the honour to report the following movements of the force landed on Friday, 9th March, under my command.

At 8.55 A.M. on that day, after fire had ceased from the ships on the bush just skirting the beach, the boats arrived and anchored off beach, and then veered themselves in through surf. I landed with my Staff at 9 A.M. simultaneously with 50 Marines under Lieutenant-Colonel Corbet, and a company of 50 seamen under Lieutenant Hudleston, to hold beach and cover landing of the remainder of force. The whole Naval Brigade was landed by 9.20 A.M., with the exception of carriers and stores.

By 10.20 A.M. everything was landed without opposition. On marching off at 10.35 I observed several shelter pits, and a few trenches just on the edge of bush.

The following was the order of march:—

Advance Guard.—50 Marines, under Lieutenant-Colonel Corbet and Captain Way, West India Regiment.

Main Body.—50 seamen, rockets, reserve ammunition, 50 seamen, medical party, under Lieutenants Hudleston and Wemyss.

Supply Column.—60 carriers, guard 4 stokers and Warrant Officer.

Rear Guard.—50 seamen, under Lieutenant-Sumner.

30 Marines were left on beach to guard stores which I was compelled to leave there on account of taking additional stores for West India Regiment, which had been landed without my knowledge.

By 11.10 A.M., having marched through dense bush and trees, followed by fairly open country and high grass, the advanced guard came to quite clear ground and observed, about 200 yards to their front, huts burning; just the other side of these was a large native town (Gunjur) in flames. I then halted to allow carriers and rear guard to close up.

At 11.30 we entered Gunjur, halting on the outskirts near the West India Regiment under Major Madden; after having communicated with him I sent Lieutenant Wemyss with his Company of 50 seamen back to where we landed, to inform you the town was evacuated and burning, and to request further orders.

Having given the men their dinners I moved the Naval Brigade off to a clear space on the southwest side of the town, about half-a-mile from the West-India's camp, intending to make that my camping ground, and commenced to destroy the stockade.

At 3.40 P.M., having received instructions from you, I commenced to retire the whole force, to embark again at the same place we landed, and arrived there at 4.20 P.M.

A party lined the edge of bush while embarkation took place.

By 6 P.M. the whole force was embarked.

I cannot speak too highly of Lieutenant Com-

mander King Hall, R.N., who was of the greatest assistance to me in making arrangements prior to landing, and also during the time we were landed.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) G. GRAVES SAWLE,
Commander, R.N.,
Commanding Naval Brigade.

Letter from Commander-in-Chief to the Admiralty, dated 13th March, 1894.

No. 100. *"Raleigh" at Bathurst,*

SIR, *March 13, 1894.*

BE pleased to inform their Lordships that I have to-day embarked the last detachment of seamen who have been landed for the protection of the Colony.

2. It is my duty to bring to their Lordships' notice the very satisfactory manner that Officers, Seamen, and Marines who have been landed have performed their duties; they had much hot marching, a great deal of night work, and many discomforts to put up with—we have had an average of about 200 men ashore—but there has been hardly any sickness, and no trouble of any kind. The Marines under Lieutenant-Colonel Corbet have had exceptionally hard times.

3. I desire to especially recommend Lieutenant-Colonel Corbet to their Lordships.

Undoubtedly the severe check he inflicted on the enemy, on the 26th February, saved the Colony from the danger of further raiding into British Combo, and caused the enemy to retire, having done very little damage. The particulars have been fully reported in my letter, No. 101, of 13th March. After that, the presence of his force entrenched in an advanced position, backed up by a strong detachment of seamen at Cape St. Mary, under Lieutenant Wemyss, at Oyster Creek Bridge, under Lieutenant Massey-Dawson, and at the Barracks, Bathurst, under Lieutenant Hudleston, effectually removed the apprehension that existed in the town and vicinity.

4. Lieutenant Hudleston had charge of the town of Bathurst from 3rd February until he embarked on 6th March to go round to Gunjur, and he performed rather difficult duties with great tact and firmness.

5. Being deprived of the services of my Flag Captain, who has been confined to bed by his wound ever since he returned to the ship, and of three out of the five Lieutenants of the Flagship, besides other Officers, has naturally thrown at an exceptionally busy time much extra work on the others, and in connection with this I wish to mention the services of my Staff, of Commander Graves Sawle, and of Lieutenant and Commander King Hall, of the "Magpie," the latter, owing to his gunnery training, having been especially useful to me. Owing to the dearth of Officers it has been necessary to employ many of the Midshipmen of this ship in positions of more responsibility than might otherwise have been the case, and I am pleased to report to their Lordships that they have proved equal to the occasion.

6. I consider myself exceedingly fortunate to have been associated with Major Fairtlough as the Officer in Command of the Troops; he has manifested a sincere desire to co-operate in every possible way, and our relations have been most satisfactory. I venture to express my opinion that the dispositions made by him, and so efficiently carried out by 1st West India Regiment, were well calculated to bring matters to a satisfactory conclusion.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) FRED. G. D. BEDFORD,
Rear-Admiral.