

after he was wounded, behaved with great gallantry and coolness.

Lieutenant W. T. G. Jones, R.M.L.I., who was wounded in the hip by a bullet which has not yet been extracted, was also wounded at this stage, but undeterred charged to the top of the hill, where his wound was dressed. The conduct of this officer is deserving of the highest praise, and I strongly recommend him to your notice.

Midshipman Wardle also showed great gallantry, and remained with Major Plumbe and several dead and wounded men, and attended to them and dressed their wounds under a heavy fire.

5. Lieutenant the Hon. E. S. H. Boyle and Lieutenant F. J. Saunders, R.M.L.I., Gunner Lowe, R.N., and Midshipman W. W. Sillem, also charged to the top of the hill, gallantly leading their men all the time under a very heavy fire, and are all deserving of special mention.

6. At the top of the hill I collected as many men as possible and advanced to the farthest position, driving the enemy before us until the position was finally captured and the Boers in full retreat with their horses and waggons.

7. Lieutenant F. Dean, Lieutenant G. W. McC. Campbell, Sub-Lieutenant White (who was in charge of the ammunition supply), and Midshipman Armstrong, who were with the guns, behaved with great gallantry in a very exposed position, which was commanded by the enemy's guns, and where they were subjected to a heavy artillery fire, which proved so accurate as to wound six men of the guns' crews.

8. Fleet Surgeon James Porter, who was with the firing line, and Surgeon Beadnell with the guns did gallant and most excellent service under trying conditions, under fire nearly the whole time.

9. It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of Midshipman Huddart, who behaved magnificently, and still advanced after he had been twice wounded until he was finally struck down mortally wounded.

10. Midshipman Sillem was stunned half-way up the hill and remained unconscious for some time.

11. General Lord Methuen came specially to see me, and ordered the men to fall in, and complimented them on their behaviour, and expressed his regret at the heavy losses we had sustained in officers and men.

12. After the action was over, being the senior officer present, I collected the men, marched into camp, and took command of the brigade.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. E. MARCHANT,
Captain, R.M.L.I.,

Commanding Royal Naval Brigade.

The Commander-in-Chief,

H.M. Ships,

Cape of Good Hope.

Gras Pan, 26th November, 1899.

SIR,

IN compliance with your orders of this date, I have the honour to submit for the information of the Commander-in-Chief a report of my proceedings with the four naval guns and four half guns' crews under my command yesterday.

2. Arrived at Gras Pan at 5.45 a.m., and observing the enemy in an apparently strong position, 5,000 yards in advance, I detrained two guns—not having enough men to handle more—and at 5.55 a.m. fired one round to test range. I then waited till the Royal Artillery with six guns took up a position on my right front and

opened fire on the enemy. I did the same, and subsequently advanced to ranges of 4,000 and ultimately 2,800 yards, acting from time to time on requests I received from the officer commanding Royal Artillery, who was attacking the same position, viz., two strongly fortified kopjes on either side of the railway with a well protected gun in each.

3. About 8 a.m. I received verbal orders to retire from my position, as the Royal Artillery were about to move away to the right, and it would then be untenable for my two guns. The Royal Artillery were already moving off when I got the order, and the Boer guns, having got our range accurately, were pouring on us such an effective shrapnel fire, that I judged it impossible to carry out the order without either leaving the guns or suffering very heavy losses, both amongst our own men and the company of Royal Engineers who were helping us, if we attempted to retreat with them.

I, therefore, continued to fire as briskly as possible at the Boer guns, with such effect that we continuously put them out of action, first one and then the other, for as much as 15 or 20 minutes at a time. Their shells burst with utmost accuracy, and both our guns and ammunition trolly were spattered all over with shrapnel balls; but, owing to my system of making all hands lie down when we saw their guns flash and remain till the shell burst and the balls flew by, we had only six men wounded when, at 9.30 a.m., the Boers finally ceased firing and abandoned their position.

4. I beg that you will submit to the Commander-in-Chief that Lieut. Campbell and Mr. Armstrong, midshipman, displayed marked coolness and courage in controlling the fire of their guns and inspiring the men, who all worked splendidly. I would recommend for favourable consideration Petty Officers 1st class Ashley (H.M.S. "Doris") and Fuller ("Monarch"), who under the trying circumstances laid their guns with the greatest accuracy. I am confident that, had the Boer guns been exposed as ours were, we should have not only silenced but captured them.

5. On Friday night I found Surgeon Beadnell at Belmont Station; he had been invalided by a medical board that day and was waiting for the hospital train. Though in bad health he gladly accepted my order to remain with the guns in view of the pending engagement, and on Saturday he rendered invaluable aid to our wounded, working close up to the guns where shrapnel balls were showering every other minute.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

F. W. DEAN,

Lieutenant, R.N.

Captain Marchant, R.M.L.I.,

Commanding Naval Brigade.

"Monarch" at Simon's Bay, 5th December, 1899,
569/747.

Forwarded for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, observing that, as expressed in my cable, the conduct of the Naval Brigade at the Graspan action was most gallant and heroic, and I am very proud of the conspicuous gallantry they showed. The wounded men who returned here have continued to exhibit the most excellent courage and fortitude. I deeply lament the sad losses the service has sustained in the death of Commander Ethelston, Major Plumbe, Captain Senior, and Mr. Huddart, midshipman, and the brave seamen and marines who fell with them.

I am glad to say that the wounded officers