

in the night, so I moved the force to Nelthorpe and rode into Ladysmith.

59. The whole country round was absolutely clear of the enemy for 10 miles. They had retreated in the greatest haste, but as they had moved their laagers between the 20th to the 24th, pursuit was useless.

60. During the whole of these 14 days, the 1st and 2nd Cavalry Brigades had kept our rear and flanks, their patrols extending from Greytown to Hongers Poort and Gourton.

61. So was accomplished the relief of Ladysmith. It was the men who did it. Danger and hardship were nothing to them, and their courage, their tenacity and their endurance, were beyond all praise.

62. During the period from the 15th January to the 28th February, this force has been engaged over 30 days, and during that period many Officers and men have distinguished themselves. I propose to make them the subject of another despatch, as I thought this, already over long, would be less confused if that course were adopted.

63. I enclose a sketch of the ground, I regret to say that Captain Kenney-Herbert was seriously injured before he could finish it.

64. I also enclose a summary of casualties, which of itself, shows the severity of the fighting.

I have, &c.,

REDVERS BULLER, General.

A.

LIST OF FORCE SENT FORWARD FROM CHIEVELEY ON 14TH FEBRUARY.

2nd Mounted Brigade. (Colonel the Earl of Dundonald.)

South African Light Horse.
Thornycrofts Mounted Infantry.
Composite Regiment—
2nd Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps, Mounted Infantry Company.
2nd Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers, Mounted Infantry Section.
Detachment Natal Police.
One Squadron, Natal Carbineers.
One squadron, Imperial Light Horse.

2nd Division. (Major-General Hon. N. G. Lyttelton, C.B.)

Divisional Troops.

One troop, 13th Hussars.
17th Company, Royal Engineers.
Brigade Division, Royal Field Artillery.
7th, 63rd, and 64th Batteries, Royal Field Artillery, Divisional Ammunition Column.

2nd Brigade. (Major-General Hildyard, C.B.)

2nd Bn. West Surrey Regiment.
2nd Bn. Devonshire Regiment.
2nd Bn. West Yorkshire Regiment.
2nd Bn. East Surrey Regiment.

4th Brigade. (Colonel Norcott, 1st Bn. Rifle Brigade, Commanding.)

2nd Bn. Scottish Rifles.
3rd Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps.
1st Bn. Durham Light Infantry.
1st Bn. Rifle Brigade.

5th Division. (Lieut.-General Sir Charles Warren, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.)

Divisional Troops.

One troop, 1st Royal Dragoons.
37th Company, Royal Engineers.
Brigade Division, Royal Field Artillery.
28th, 73rd and 78th Batteries, Royal Field Artillery, Divisional Ammunition Column.

10th Brigade. (Major-General Talbot Coke.)

2nd Bn. Somersetshire Light Infantry.
2nd Bn. Dorsetshire Regiment.
2nd Bn. Middlesex Regiment.

11th Brigade. (Major-General A. S. Wynne, C.B.)

2nd Bn. Royal Lancaster Regiment.
1st Bn. South Lancashire Regiment.
Rifle Reserve Battalion.

6th Brigade. (Attached 5th Division—Major-General Barton, C.B.)

2nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers.
2nd Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers.
1st Bn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers.
2nd Bn. Royal Irish Fusiliers.

Corps Troops.

61st Howitzer Battery, Royal Field Artillery.
Two 5-inch guns (16th Company, Southern Division, Royal Garrison Artillery).
Four naval 12-pr guns.
Detachment Section, Telegraph Division, Royal Engineers.
Corps Troops, Ammunition Column.

Reinforcements Despatched after 14th February.

17th February.—Two 5-inch guns (16th Company, Southern Division, Royal Garrison Artillery).

18th February.—19th Battery, Royal Field Artillery.

19th February.—Two 4.7-inch naval guns (travelling carriages).

20th February—

Four naval 12-prs.
4th Mountain Battery.
Pontoon Troop, Royal Engineers.
Balloon Section, Royal Engineers.

22nd February, 5th Brigade—

Inniskilling Fusiliers.
Connaught Rangers.
Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
Imperial Light Infantry.

22nd February, 1st Cavalry Brigade—

1st (Royal) Dragoons.
13th Hussars.
Head-quarters and two squadrons, 14th Hussars.

"A" Battery, Royal Horse Artillery.

25th February.—Two 4.7-inch naval guns on platform mountings.

26th February.—1st Bn. Border Regiment.

27th February.—1st Bn. York and Lancaster Regiment.

B.

1.

Evidence of No. 6418 Private F. Ayling, 3rd Bn. King's Royal Rifles.

Near Colenso,

25th February, 1900.

I was taken prisoner about 5 a.m. on 23rd instant by the Boers, being too far in front of my company to retire. I was allowed to go about 10 a.m. on the 25th, and rejoined my regiment.

During this time I was kept in the Boer trenches without food or drink. There were quite 20 of our wounded lying close to the trenches, and asking for water all the time, which was always refused. If any of the wounded moved they were shot at. Most of them died for want of assistance, as they were lying there two days and two nights. The Boers (who seemed to be all English) said, "let them die, and give them no water."