

entrench a position on the hill but found the ground too rocky.

It was also raked by two guns which none of mine could silence, a 75 mm. Creusot on Spion Kop, and a 15 c.m. Creusot on the top of the hill above Doorn Kloof. The first they could not see, the second was on a sort of truck mounting, its muzzle showed up when it fired and then it disappeared. Our 4.7, 12-pr. Naval, and 5" guns fired at it for the two days, they twice blew up its magazine or ammunition store, but failed to silence the gun.

7. As the safe tenure of Vaal Krantz was indispensable for further operations, and I could neither entrench there owing to the extremely rocky nature of the ground, nor protect it from Artillery fire, I concluded that an advance by that route would be impossible, and, recalling the 2nd Brigade at sunset, determined to try another passage.

8. As an illustration of the nature of the country I may mention that on the 5th the enemy were bringing what appeared to be a Maxim Nordenfeldt gun drawn by eight horses on a galloping carriage across the back of the position from West to East—as they crossed the Mungers Farm—Klipport-road, they came under the fire of our guns on Swartz Kop. The first shell went very close, and the team turned sharp to the right and disappeared, they seemed to have fallen over into a donga, a shell followed them in, and we saw no more of them till they reappeared at least a mile off out of another donga, short of two horses and a man. The country was honeycombed with these dongas, all of which had been utilized for defence.

9. Of the prisoners we took, two, an Austrian and an Englishman, belonged to the Johannesburg Commando. They described their Commando as a mixture of all nationalities under the sun except Dutch, the common language being English. One of them said that in Johannesburg alone there were now over 2,000 widows who still believed their husbands to be alive.

10. The Naval Brigade and the Royal Artillery under Captain Jones and Lieutenant Ogilvy, R.N., and Colonel Parsons, R.A., did excellent work throughout the three days, and Major Irvine, R.E., and the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and men of the Pontoon Troop, Royal Engineers, deserve much praise.

The General Officer Commanding 4th Brigade brings to notice the names of the following Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and men:—

Lieutenant-Colonel Woodland, Durham Light Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel Norcott, Rifle Brigade, Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel FitzGerald, Captains McMahon, Harter, and Cumming, and Lieutenant Cochrane, Durham Light Infantry; also the following Non-Commissioned Officers and men, Durham Light Infantry:—

A Company, Colour-Sergeant Waiton, Corporal Kelly.

B Company, Sergeant Crump, No. 4843 Private Hall.

E Company, Colour-Sergeant Johnson, No. 3553 Private Allen.

G Company, Colour-Sergeant Williams, Sergeant Iles.

H Company, Sergeant Thomas, Private Ismay.

K Company, Colour-Sergeant Shea, No. 6475 Private Miller, No. 6059 Private Nicholson.

L Company, Colour-Sergeant Noble, Corporal Pratt.

M Company, Colour-Sergeant Tilley, and 3884 Private Stansfield.

Also of the Rifle Brigade:—

Major H. F. M. Wilson.

Major Lamb.

Second Lieutenant Buxton.

And the following Non-Commissioned Officers and men:—

No. 2052 Sergeant J. Brooke.

No. 3262 Acting Sergeant J. Alderson.

No. 408 Private P. Perry.

No. 1247 Private S. Molloy (since died of wounds).

Lieutenant T. M. Archdale, 78th Battery Royal Field Artillery, is specially mentioned for the manner in which he withdrew the battery wagons under a heavy enfilade fire, which struck two out of the three wagons and several of the horses. The battery was being moved to No. 2 Pontoon Bridge, as mentioned in para. 5.

Lieutenant J. J. W. Prescott, Royal Army Medical Corps, is also specially mentioned for his care of the wounded in despite of a heavy fire.

11 I attach a list of casualties.

12. I much regret my failure to pierce the enemy's line of defence, and the more so as I think we all of us thought at first the movement was going to be successful.

I thought that it was no use pushing an attack which did not, if successful, promise a secure base for the next advance on Ladysmith now still 10 miles off, with Roodeport, a very strong carefully prepared position, between us and it. I have every reason to believe, from what we saw, and from the reports of deserters since, that the enemy's loss was much heavier than ours.

I have, &c.,

REDVERS BULLER, General.

The Secretary of State for War,

&c., &c., &c.,

by Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief,
South Africa.

Approximate casualties from 5th February to 8th February, 1900:—

Officers Killed.

Major T. R. Johnson-Smyth, 1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry.

Second Lieutenant C. D. Shafto, 1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry.

Officers Wounded.

Captain F. White, 2nd Battalion East Surrey Regiment.

Lieutenant C. C. Bicknell, 2nd Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Montgomery, Royal Artillery.

Captain H. F. Dawson, Royal Artillery, severely.

Major A. S. Rose, Royal Army Medical Corps, slightly.

Second Lieutenant E. B. Ferrers, 2nd Battalion Scottish Rifles, severely.

Lieutenant R. F. Manley Sims, 3rd Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps, contusion, shell.

Captain W. C. Lascelles, 1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry, dangerously.

Second Lieutenant R. R. Lambton, 1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry, slightly.

Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. FitzGerald, 1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry, severely.

Second Lieutenant E. W. Appleby, 1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry, severely.

Second Lieutenant C. L. Matthews, 1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry, very slightly.

Lieutenant E. A. C. Blake, 1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry, severely.