



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY, the 16th of MAY.

Published by Authority.

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1879.

War Office, May 16, 1879.

**A** DESPATCH and its enclosures, of which the following are copies, have been received from the Lieut.-General Commanding in South Africa, by the Secretary of State for War:—

From the Lieut.-General Commanding in South Africa to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for War.

SIR, *Durban, April 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour, in continuance of my despatch, No. 13, forwarded by last mail, to forward the enclosures therein referred to, viz.:—

(a) The report of Brigadier-General Pearson, giving an account of his proceedings from the 24th January to 9th April.

(b) The report of Major Barrow, commanding the mounted portion of the relieving column on the 2nd April; together

(c) With some enclosures connected with number of horses killed or wounded, and arms taken from the enemy.

I am informed by my Deputy-Adjutant General that copies of every document received by him from Brigadier-General Wood connected with the events of 28th and 29th March have been forwarded to you; likewise that full particulars of all events since I crossed the border have been sent by telegraph, *vid* Madeira.

I had no opportunity of perusing these documents until my return to Durban on the 9th April, but I refrain from making any remarks on the events of those two days, as the reports will have been in your hands for some considerable time when this reaches you. I can, however, most fully endorse the terms in which Brigadier-General Wood has spoken of several officers under his command, knowing, as I do personally, the character of almost every officer referred to; but in the case of Mr. P. Uys, I had only known him from the letters, public and private, of those with whom he had been associated when serving Her Majesty. Colonel Wood and Colonel Buller had invariably spoken of him in the warmest terms, and his loss at such a time must, I consider, be considered a national one.

I trust that the brilliant success of the 29th March may be some consolation for the sad loss of life on the 28th. The full value of this success

and that of the 2nd April in the south-east of Zululand, is yet to be known, and I cannot but think these successes will most materially affect the whole course of politics in South Africa.

I have not observed in Colonel Wood's despatch any reference to the reason why he considered it desirable to attack on the 28th. I desire, therefore, to state that previous to advancing on Etshowe, I had given instructions along the whole line to make demonstrations against the enemy, for I had reason to believe at that time that I should find the whole Zulu army between my force and Etshowe.

I left Colonel Wood completely unfettered as to what action he should take in furthering this common object, but it is evident that the affair of the 28th was the result of his carrying out my wishes.

I have, &c.,  
CHELMSFORD,  
Lieutenant-General.

(A.)

From Colonel Pearson, Commanding No. 1 Column, to the Military Secretary, &c., &c., Durban.

*Fort Tenedos, Lower Tugela Drift, Zululand,*

SIR, *April 9, 1879.*

CIRCUMSTANCES, as you are aware, have prevented my continuing to acquaint you periodically with the proceedings of the column under my command, as directed by His Excellency the Lieutenant-General, Commanding. Since my despatch of the 23rd January, ultimo, when I reported my arrival at Ekowe and the action near the Inyazana River, in continuation of this correspondence, it will be remembered that my original orders were to entrench Ekowe, which was eventually to become an important Commissariat Depot, and to assist that department in every way in my power to equip it as speedily as possible.

I, accordingly, at once placed the question of the defences in the hands of Captain Wynne, R.E., the Senior Engineer officer, and on the morning of the 24th January I despatched 2 Companies 2nd Battalion, the Buffs, and 2 Companies Native Contingent, with a few mounted men, to meet a large convoy of commissariat wagons, under the orders of Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Ely, 99th